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JORDAN 3 Days \$170

EGYPT 4 Days \$79 see last page

MAZADA TOURS

Summit backs Syria's stand

ALEXANDRIA (Reuters) - Leaders of Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia ended a two-day summit yesterday with strong support for Syria's stand in deadlocked peace talks with Israel.

In a joint communique, President Hosni Mubarak, President Hafez Assad, and Saudi King Fahd also condemned Israel's alleged nuclear stockpiling and urged Iraq to rejoin the Arab mainstream by accepting UN resolutions.

While the communique was largely predictable, the two-day meeting was considered important as a step toward ending bitter Arab disputes remaining from the Gulf War and recent rifts over making peace with Israel.

The leaders also urged a Middle East free of destructive weapons, with nuclear arms "in the forefront," a reference to the more than 200 nuclear warheads Israel is believed to possess.

Egypt has recently been calling on other Arab states not to renew participation in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty unless Israel agrees to join the international convention.

Israel regrets the fact that Egypt did not take a neutral position in the dispute between Israel and Syria over the Golan Heights during the Alexandria summit, but hopes Cairo will still convince

(Continued on Page 3)



Labor faction chairman Eli Dayan (left) talks to fellow MKs Yossi Vamunu (center) and David Mena before yesterday's budget vote. (Isaac Harari)

Court rejects El Khader petition

JON IMMANUEL

THE High Court of Justice yesterday rejected a petition by residents of El Khader for an immediate injunction halting building work on the disputed hill between their village and Efrat.

Justice Dov Levin postponed the hearing to next week, saying it should be heard by three justices and include the response of the settlers.

Before the ruling, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told Israel Radio's Arabic service that,

"Work should be halted until the matter is thoroughly clarified. I hope it will be today."

The petitioners called not only for an end to the construction by a consortium of 500 home buyers, but for a ruling that the building is illegal and discriminates against them, because they need the land for an expanding population.

In an attempt to prevent what was expected to be a hectic weekend of confrontation on the hill, OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran yesterday prohibited any demonstrations there.

In an official statement, Biran said that, in the name of public order and security considerations, all demonstrations and crowds are prohibited. Both Peace Now and Gush Shalom had

(Continued on Page 3)

Bill withdrawal unlikely to affect passage of budget

EVELYN GORDON

IN a major embarrassment, the government was forced yesterday to temporarily withdraw the Economic Arrangements Law accompanying the budget, after it failed to persuade renegade Labor faction chairman Eli Dayan to withdraw an amendment to institute a longer school day.

However, the fiasco over the Economic Arrangements Law did not seem likely to affect passage of the budget. The debate on the budget bill took place as planned yesterday,

and voting began shortly before midnight prior to debate on a bill to ban non-kosher meat imports. (Story, Page 2)

Most of the thousands of amendments to the budget are expected to be defeated. A few, however, proposed by rebellious Labor MKs in defiance of a coalition decision to withdraw all amendments by coalition members - may pass. These include an increase to Druse budgets proposed by Salah Tarif and aid to

distressed farmsteads proposed by Shmuel Avital.

The Economic Arrangements Law can be returned to the Knesset for a continuation of its second reading in no less than a week's time and no more than three weeks' time, by Knesset regulations. In the interim, negotiations to persuade Dayan to back down from his proposed amendment are expected to continue.

However, Dayan remained adamantly against compromise last night.

(Continued on Page 2)

Dayan rebellion due to primaries

COMMENT
EVELYN GORDON

TO many MKs, coalition chairman Eli Dayan's unexpected rebellion can be explained in one word: primaries.

Dayan has always been the model party politician, cheerfully doing all his faction's dirty work. When a bill needed to be passed to overturn a High Court ruling so that Yit'ud could join the coalition, Dayan submitted a private member's bill on the subject to save the government the embarrassment of having to do so.

Similarly, after Shas voted no confidence over the government's failure to legislate financial benefits for large families, Dayan obligingly submitted a private member's bill on the subject, thereby eliminating the need for the Treasury to make a humiliating reversal and sponsor a similar bill.

Yesterday, however, all of the other 11 Labor MKs who had come out in favor of the long

school day were ready to drop their proposed amendment, following a government decision to extend the school day "according to the proposal by Eli Dayan and Rafi Edri." The decision, however, stated that the school day might be lengthened until 2 p.m., rather than 4 as Dayan had wanted.

Only Dayan stubbornly refused to withdraw his amendment, and many MKs said the reason was his desperate need to distinguish himself in the voters' eyes before the upcoming Labor primaries.

"The system of primaries has produced embarrassing fruit," said Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein, who has long been an opponent of primaries. "There's

no precedent for primaries for a party list. There's a precedent for primaries for a person - and that I support."

Like many opponents of primaries, Rubinstein sees the last two days' events as a confirmation of all his worst fears: primaries will lead MKs to pursue headlines at any cost - including the good of the party and government policy.

Avraham Poraz (Meretz) was so incensed by what happened that he submitted a private member's bill which would make primaries illegal, and require parties to have some kind of convention to choose their slates instead.

"Primaries make MKs propose and promote populist ideas, and in effect cause the complete breakdown of the authority a party must have over its representatives. Primaries cause MKs to have almost no interest in

(Continued on Page 3)

1995 tax changes will hardly be felt by public

JOSE ROSENFELD

TAXPAYERS will barely feel the major tax changes that are to herald the new fiscal year.

The Treasury's chief tax strategist, State Revenue Director Yoram Gabbai, admits as much. "The changes will only amount to dozens of shekels more or less to individuals' disposable income, except for the top earners, whose

taxes will go up more significantly."

Gabbai estimates that 80 percent of all taxpayers' take-home pay will increase, while the remainder will see a drop in their disposable income.

A couple earning NIS 15,000 a

month will not benefit from the reforms, despite the recent 5.2 percent tax bracket adjustment for inflation, Gabbai says. This assumes that the husband grosses NIS 9,000 a month and the wife NIS 6,000.

The new year will usher in re-

forms in income as well as National Insurance Institute (NII) taxes, and a new health and organization tax.

On Sunday, the second stage of the income tax reform will take effect, cutting NIS 800 million in

(Continued on Page 3)

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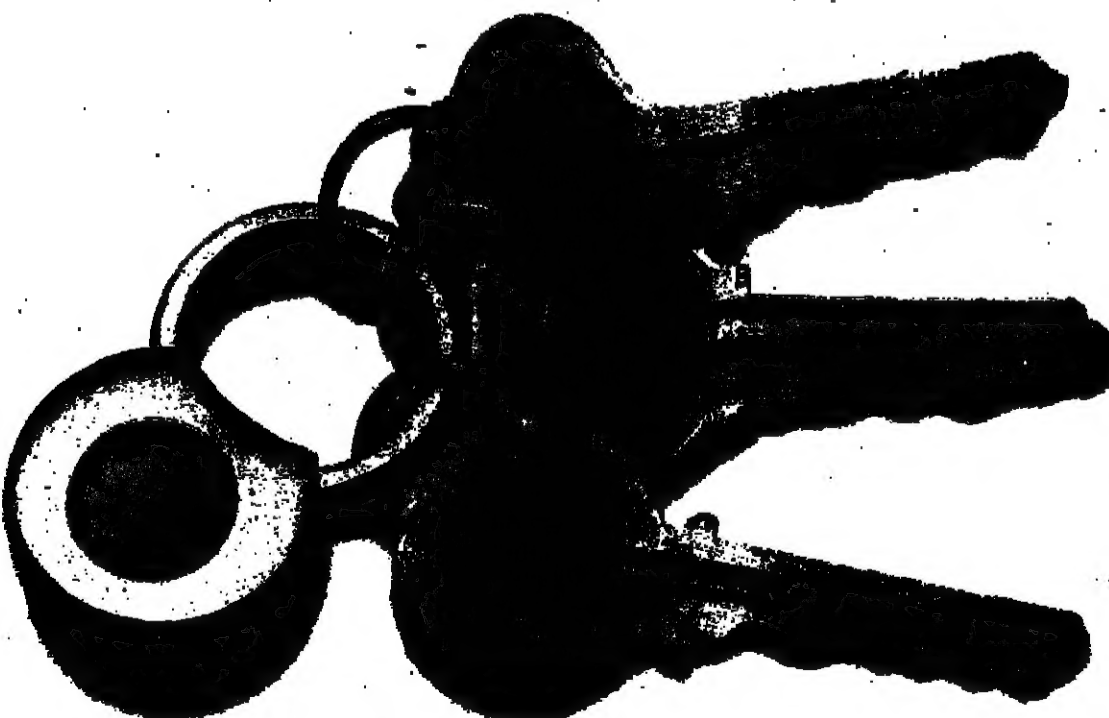
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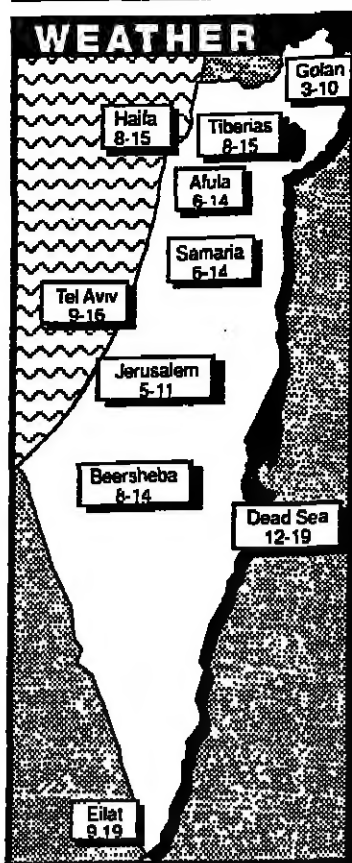
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Winning numbers and cards

In last night's Payis Hatzik drawing, the holder of ticket number 201915 won NIS 1,000,000.

The holder of ticket number 184089 won a Honda sports car.

Tickets numbered 724057, 636336, 006384, 429937, 240207, 439222, 876880, 470999, 749265, 459673, 348384, 138911, 870885, 150262, 171295, 318375, 060077, 161655, 253030, 312644, 231433, 699776, 600739, 737105, 656687 and 634739 won NIS 5,000. Those tickets ending in 84278, 33359, 11992, 01429, 95736, 06155, 63479, 53851, 09662, 00707, 63492, 64292, 05075, 03161, 46082, 69654, 07759, 75455 and 29446 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 116, 920, 662, and 860 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 37, 33, 26 and 59 won NIS 50. Tickets ending in 17, 91, 73, 92, 48, 04 and 16 won NIS 10. Tickets ending in 5 won NIS 7.

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the jack of spades, king of hearts, jack of diamonds, and ace of clubs.

CORRECTION

We regret the inadvertent omission of photo captions on Page 19 in some copies of today's *Magazine*. The captions read (from top right, clockwise): The Supreme Court one of Jerusalem's outstanding new landmarks; Stone carvings decorate the Lions' Gate; The new City Hall, an example of Jerusalem's high-quality public construction; Glazed Armenian tiles embellish the windows of the Nashashibi house in the Sheikh Jarrah quarter.

Clinton announces he'll seek reelection

DESPITE severe Democratic Party setbacks in the midterm Congressional election last month, President Bill Clinton said yesterday he will seek reelection in 1996 and is not bothered by the prospect of facing a challenge for his party's nomination. AP

Non-kosher meat bill set to pass

EVELYN GORDON

A BILL to ban the importing of non-kosher meat seemed set to pass its final reading sometime today, despite Meretz's best efforts at a filibuster.

The final reading, slated to have begun after the budget vote ended, capped two days of frenetic efforts to ready the bill by January 1, when the Industry and Trade Ministry is slated to begin issuing licenses for meat imports. In light of previous High Court of Justice rulings, the government saw no way to deny licenses to importers of non-kosher meat without the law, and Shas had demanded that it prevent any such imports.

MK Nomi Chazan (Meretz) spearheaded efforts to keep the law from passing until after January 1, because the law includes a "grandfather clause" allowing anyone who already has a license when it is passed to continue importing. Thus, a delay in the law could enable some importers to obtain licenses. By her own count, she dragged out the Economics Committee hearings preceding the first reading over a 96-hour period.

"This is the beginning of fundamentalism in

Israel," she said. "This is one of the most anti-democratic laws it is possible to conceive of."

Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish, however, rejected this. Any agricultural law, whether to protect local produce, ensure health standards or any other purpose, is "an entrance into the citizen's kitchen," he said, but it is accepted throughout the world.

Chazan also proposed some 60 amendments to the bill to drag out the plenum debate on the final reading, while Tsomet, the bill's other main opponent, proposed about 40. Altogether, there were about 150.

A small problem arose when Shas demanded the meat bill vote be held before the budget vote, for fear too many MKs would leave if the meat vote came after the budget. Since the bill overrides the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation, it must pass by at least 61 MKs on all readings - easily achieved as long as most MKs are present. In its first reading, for instance, the law passed 74-14, with only Meretz, the Arab parties and part of Tsomet voting against.

However, to interrupt a debate on a bill normally requires the consent of all factions. Thus, when the government wanted to bring the meat bill for a first reading during the debate on the Economic Arrangements Law, Meretz refused, so the motion failed.

Technically, according to House Committee chairman Haggai Merom (Labor), the committee has complete control over the budget debate and can interrupt it at any time. However, he decided it would be improper to force such procedure over Meretz's objection - particularly because the problem was never coalition threatening, since Shas had said it would still support the budget if its demand could not be met.

In addition, the government was worried that the Meretz-Tsomet filibuster against the meat bill would delay the budget's passage.

In the end, the Economics Committee rejected as well a request by the Chief Rabbinate to state the bill overrides the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation, after Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair assured the panel the bill is compatible with this basic law.

Hadash, DAP: We'll vote against budget

Dayan, Sheetrit make strange bedfellows

EVELYN GORDON

IN a rare display of rebellion, Hadash and the DAP said last night they would vote against the budget.

However, the government has a guaranteed majority without their votes, thanks to Yitand and Shas.

"We did the calculation that there's no danger to the government" from voting no, explained Abdul Wahab Darawshe (DAP). The three Arab MKs who are part of Labor and Meretz, however, decided to vote for the budget, after most ministers expressed a willingness to find additional funding for the Arab sector within their ministries.

According to Salah Tarif (Labor), there were a few holdouts, such as the Religious Affairs, Cul-

ture, and Agriculture ministries.

"And there were great improvements [in Arab budgets] in the last two years," Tarif added.

Darawshe said the Arab parties made their decision after Rabin refused to make them any promises regarding either their financial demands or their political demands, such as the recognition of Arab villages.

Rabin, said Darawshe, explained any budgetary agreement would have to be presented to the plenum 24 hours before the vote, and he did not have 24 hours, since the vote had to be taken last night.

"[He said] that if he promised us anything now, it would be a bribe," Darawshe added.

THE coalition crisis has created one unexpected alliance: Labor faction leader Eli Dayan and Likud MK Meir Sheetrit.

Only Wednesday, the two were threatening to torpedo each other's identical proposals on the long school day lest the other get the credit.

Yesterday they were the best of friends, pledging to work together for the passage of the law.

Sheetrit's bill on the subject is ready for a first reading, but he said he would wait until Dayan's bill passes preliminary reading and the Education Committee, so the two bills can move forward together.

EVELYN GORDON

"And then, we will pass the long school day together," the two MKs chanted in unison, arms around each other.

The two even did a joint interview, as Dayan tried to explain his position to reporters.

"I think the public has to know the chairman of the coalition has values and conscience..."

"And guts," interjected Sheetrit.

"And guts," Dayan agreed. However, the new alliance could pose a serious threat to the government, which is adamantly opposed to the passage of the law.

Implications of Economics Arrangement Law delay

BACKGROUND

EVELYN GORDON

A FEW weeks' delay in passing the Economic Arrangements Law is unlikely to be a tragedy for either the government or its citizens. However, the delay will have some implications:

- Anyone selling an apartment worth less than NIS 1.1 million who has sold another apartment in the past four years is advised to wait a few weeks, because the exemption on land betterment tax will expire on January 1 - but will come back into force once the law is passed. If you have not sold an apartment within the past four years, however, you are exempt in any case.
- A planned 0.5 percent reduction in National Insurance payments will be delayed until

- the law is passed. However, said Treasury spokesman Eli Yosef, the Treasury may decide to make the law retroactive to January 1 when it does pass.
- Investors will not be able to obtain government grants or guaranteed loans for the next few weeks under the Law to Encourage Capital Investments, since this law also now expires January 1.
- The 1985 law enabling price controls also

expires January 1. However, the Treasury said, it can continue to impose price controls on items currently under supervision thanks to a pre-1985 law which is still on the books. The delay in passing the Economic Arrangements Law will therefore have no effect in this area.

As of January 1, municipalities can in theory demand that the government start paying full city rates on all its properties. However, said Yosef, by the time the first payment is due, the government expects to have passed the Arrangements Law, and may make this section retroactive as well, to ensure that the government must only pay the discounted rates specified in the law.

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مكاتب السفر

TAXES

(Continued from Page 1)
taxes by broadening the tax brackets through the elimination of the 35% tax bracket.
The lowest bracket will be 15% for people making up to NIS 2,800 a month, while the highest bracket will be 50% for all income over NIS 11,801. Income between NIS 2,800 and NIS 6,020 will be taxed at 30%, while income between NIS 6,021 and NIS 11,800 will be taxed at 45%.

The changes expand the 30% bracket by NIS 1,870 and the 45% bracket by NIS 2,820, which will translate in a net income increase of between NIS 65 and NIS 300 per individual.

● The NII employee tax reform will reduce the tax on the first NIS 2,000 earned to 2.8%, while expanding the tax coverage to income supplements such as car allowances, overtime and the like that were previously exempted and which make up between 8 percent and 15 percent of wages. Income above NIS 2,000 will be taxed at 5.35% as before, except that the ceiling for NII taxable income will be increased from three times the mean wage to four times, or approximately NIS 16,000.

Those grossing NIS 2,000 a month will benefit the most, with a NIS 41 increase in disposable income, while individuals making between NIS 6,500 and NIS 11,000 will be marginally affected. Someone earning NIS 15,000 a month will pay NIS 308 more in NII taxes.

● The new health tax will reduce the average wage-earner's disposable income by NIS 67. A comparison between the new tax and the health insurance fee paid to Kupat Holim Clalit shows that the maximum taxable income will increase to NIS 16,000 from NIS 10,000.

● Under the new tax, the first NIS 2,000 earned will be taxed at a rate of 3.1% and any additional income will be taxed at 4.8%. The maximum tax payment a month will thus reach NIS 734 per wage earner. Each individual from a working couple will be required to pay the new tax. As a result, households with two wage-earners are likely to see a reduction in their disposable income.

According to the Treasury, the tax will not increase the burden on individuals, since it merely transfers the payments that were previously made to the health funds away to the NII.

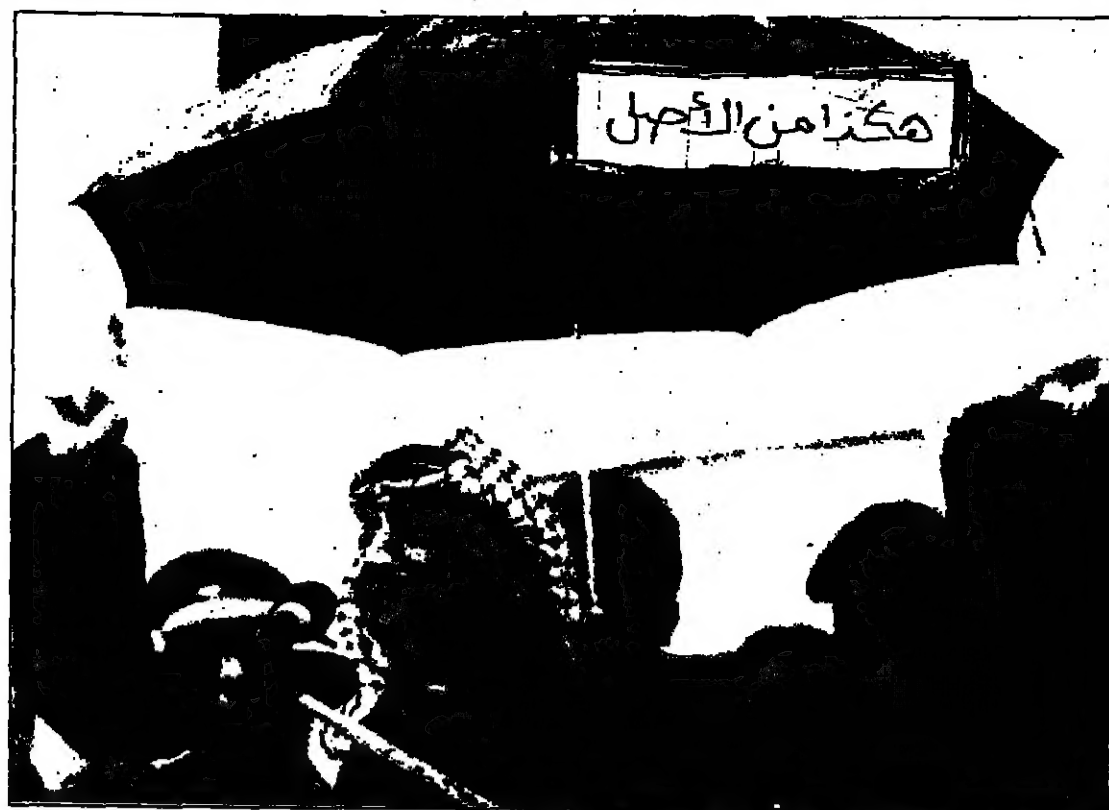
Although the ceiling for the new organization tax has yet to be agreed upon, wage earners can expect to pay a 0.8% tax for income of up to NIS 7,360. According to Gabbai, the organization tax will further erode tax cuts, although it will be partly offset by a 0.45% cut in employee NII taxes.

All these changes will be reflected in January paychecks that will be paid in February.

If adopted, the Treasury's proposal to cut the cost of living wage adjustment by 2% against a 1.4% reduction in the health tax will have no effect on individuals' disposable income, since the lower tax will be matched by lower pay, explains Gabbai.

Investors will be facing a new capital gains tax on real profits of 10% if they do not choose to offset their losses, or of 20% if they do. Mutual fund investment profits will be taxed at 15%.

Company income taxes will drop to 37% from 38% this year and new tax deduction rules will apply to business car use.



PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, surrounded by bodyguards and Palestinian policemen, addresses a crowd in Deir el-Balah yesterday. (AP)

'Al-Ahram' poll: Most Egyptians shun Israel despite 15 years of peace

CAIRO (Reuters) - Fifteen years after Egypt made peace with Israel, most Egyptians have no wish to visit or buy its goods, an opinion poll published yesterday said.

The survey, published in the *Al-Ahram* weekly newspaper, also indicated that only a third of Egyptians think the 1993 Israeli-PLO self-rule accord has given Palestinians their rights.

Al-Ahram, describing the survey as the first of its kind in Egypt, said it polled 1,505 people this month in two of Cairo's main railway stations.

It said 71 percent of people, asked if they would buy Israeli goods, answered "no." Twenty-six percent said "yes" and 3 percent had no opinion.

Asked if they approved of Israeli factories in Egypt, 75 percent said "no" while 20 percent said "yes." Sixty-three percent said they would not like to visit Israel, and 53 percent said they would not

like Israelis to visit Egypt.

On the domestic front, the poll found an overwhelming 93 percent said Islamic groups that used violence were not working for the good of the people.

The organizers of the survey cautioned it should not be interpreted too precisely, since the sample interviewed tended towards a "considerably higher representation of the upper strata of society," and most interviewees were from the north, where support for Islamic groups is weaker.

More than 550 people, mainly police and Moslem militants, have been killed since March 1992 when Egypt's largest militant group, al-Gama'a al-Islamiya, launched a campaign of violence against the Egyptian government.

In a question on party affiliation, the survey registered only 0.1 percent support for the Gama'a.

PRIMARIES

(Continued from Page 1)

important matters that have no media dimension [such as work in Knesset committees]. Instead, they devote all their time to gimmicks and tricks and to pointless speeches in the plenum," he wrote in his explanatory notes to the bill.

Supporters of the primary system, however, indignantly rejected these arguments.

"I don't accept this facile tendency to blame the primaries for all the Labor Party's problems," said Knesset House Committee chairman Hagai Merom, who was responsible for organizing Labor's primaries. "The real problem is that there is no leadership in the party... The primaries did create a new atmosphere, and they led to a greater desire by MKs to expose themselves. But it would have been possible to prevent things from getting out of control."

Primaries, he said, have one great advantage: more people are involved in choosing their representatives, and this leads to greater involvement by the public in decision-making and greater responsiveness by MKs to the public. This in turn forces a greater responsiveness by the government to its MKs, if it wants to avoid crises.

But Binyamin Begin (Likud) retorted that this greater responsiveness to the public's demands is precisely what's wrong with the primary system.

"MKs should be attentive to public opinion," he said. "But they must not make decisions based on public opinion."

That method, he said, leads to a policy which consists only of "bending with the wind," massive expenditures and, consequently, rampant inflation.

Whether the Dayan episode will persuade any primary supporters to change their minds remains to be seen. But it certainly gives opponents' new ammunition.

The week's events may also force a change in the way party leaders deal with their parties.

"When [US President Bill] Clinton wants to pass a budget," said Merom, "he meets with every [Democratic] senator, and with any congressman who is likely to be a troublemaker."

Israeli prime ministers, he said, will simply have to learn to do the same.

EL KHADER

(Continued from Page 1)

planned to demonstrate today. Peace Now says it will hold its demonstration despite the ban, and has petitioned the High Court against it. The petition is to be heard today.

El Khader's efforts have emboldened Palestinians in other areas to challenge construction work, while Israeli sympathizers vowed to continue protests on the hill, and European representatives are also weighing in with their views.

The hill has become a place of pilgrimage by opponents of Israeli settlements and a source of inspiration. It is now visible from a distance by the black smoke of burning tires, tents, and placards.

In Husan, five kilometers west of El Khader, villagers sat in the path of bulldozers building a road on land they say was confiscated from them.

The Palestinian Authority, which met on Wednesday night under Chairman Yasser Arafat, called for an end to all settlement, mentioning construction planned near Givat Ze'ev, northwest of Jerusalem, which Palestinians say trespasses on land owned by the neighboring villages of El-Jib and Biddo. In Al-Bireh, residents are angered by a planned bypass road from settlements in the area they say threatens 2,000 dunams.

Arafat called for international intervention after the emergency mid-week meeting, and senior consular officials from France, Britain, Belgium, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland visited the hill yesterday morning.

Deputy French Consul-General Jean-Christophe Peaucelle told reporters that "a just solution in the framework of international law and human rights" must be found.

Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair met with legal advisers for four hours to examine the legality of the Efrat construction work. Three issues are at stake which have been addressed by the High Court, international law, and the Israel-PLO agreement.

Does the land belong to private Arab owners? If not and it is state land, does the state have the right to sell it for private building? If so, should security and political considerations override strict legal considerations?

Alon Pinkas contributed to this report.

Beduin killed while running roadblock

JON IMMANUEL

SOLDIERS at a roadblock near Hebron early yesterday shot and killed Ali Abu Nasser, an Israeli Beduin from Beersheba who ignored orders to halt and drove through the roadblock without stopping, the IDF said.

Abu Nasser was driving a stolen car at the time. The IDF is investigating whether the soldiers fired according to regulations. Meanwhile, a Palestinian policeman who was wounded and arrested after he tried to shoot a soldier near Rafiah 13 days ago died Wednesday while being transferred to prison from the hospital by soldiers. Doctors had authorized his release from the hospital.

Mohammed Sikak, 21, collapsed suddenly and lost consciousness while being transferred. The IDF said it is investigating his death.

Whether the Dayan episode will persuade any primary supporters to change their minds remains to be seen. But it certainly gives opponents' new ammunition.

The week's events may also force a change in the way party leaders deal with their parties.

"When [US President Bill] Clinton wants to pass a budget," said Merom, "he meets with every [Democratic] senator, and with any congressman who is likely to be a troublemaker."

Israeli prime ministers, he said, will simply have to learn to do the same.

SUMMIT

(Continued from Page 1)

Damascus it should not miss a historic chance for peace, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said last night.

"We are sorry Egypt did not take a neutral position on the terms of peace between us and Syria. We hope they will fulfill a constructive role in the months ahead, persuading Syria that missing the chance for peace now will be a historic lost opportunity that may not return."

The concluding statement supporting Syria after the conference comes after Damascus has complained about Gulf states, such as

Oman and Qatar, moving toward peace with Israel while Jerusalem's talks with Syrians and Palestinians are stalled.

"The leaders also asserted their demand that Israel completely withdraw from the Golan Heights... the south of Lebanon and the occupied Palestinian territories, including Arab Jerusalem," the statement said.

It said the leaders "highly appreciate" Syria's strong stance and urged sponsors of the Middle East peace talks to work toward "removing the obstacles that the Israeli side puts in the road to peace."

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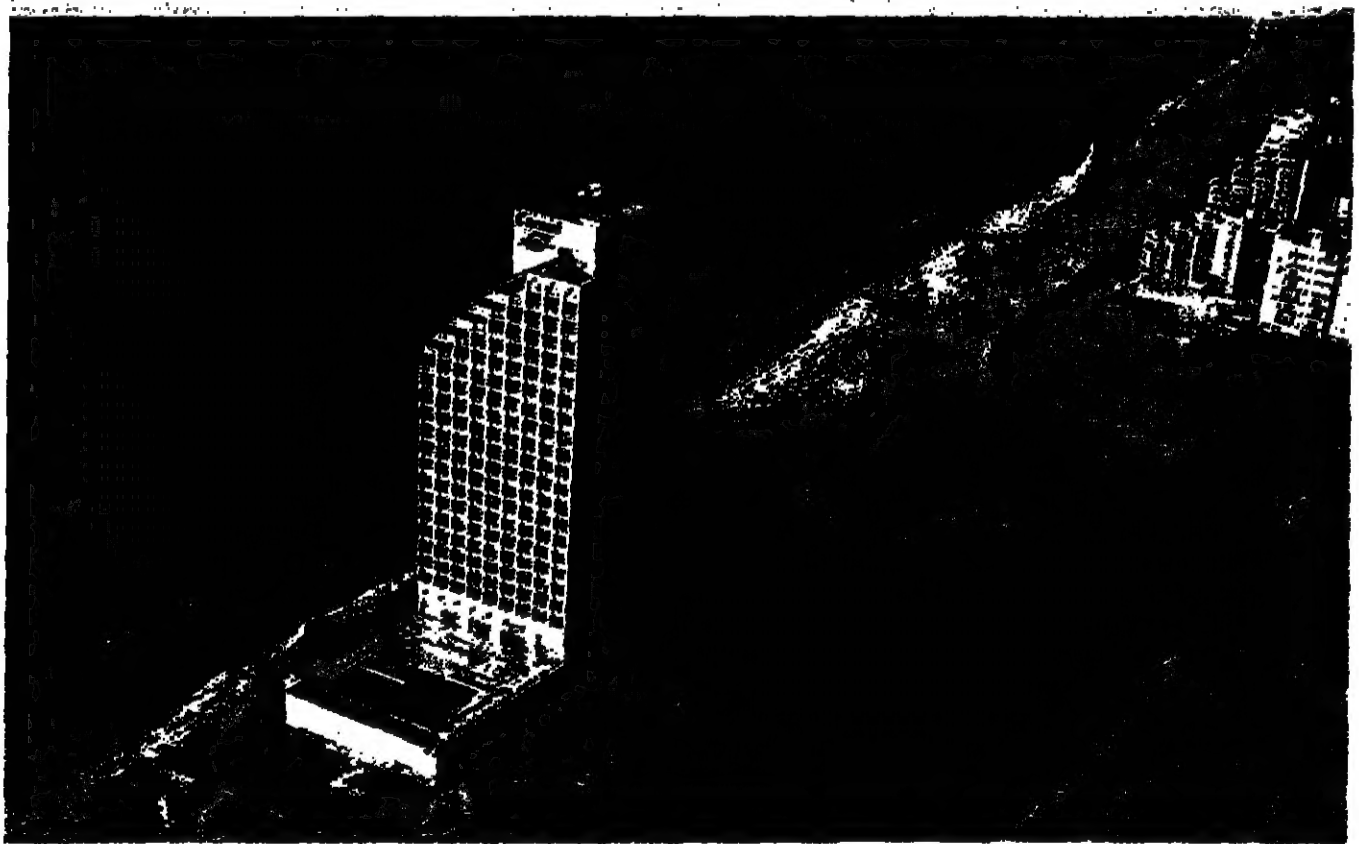
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Soldiers to be barred from using cellular phones while on duty

ALON PINKAS

IDF unit commanders will be authorized to determine when soldiers are permitted to use privately-owned cellular phones, but their use during any military activity will be prohibited altogether.

A new General Staff order governing the use of cellular phones by soldiers, officers, and reservists will be issued next week, containing specific restrictions. Carrying a cellular phone and using it will be strictly forbidden during any kind of military activity. Only a unit commander will be authorized to

give permission to use the phone, which is to be stored with the soldier's personal belongings.

Relaying any information pertaining to military affairs by such phones will be forbidden, and officers from the rank of major or a field security officer will be empowered to instruct a soldier not to carry or use a cellular phone, for field security reasons.

The use of cellular phones will only be permitted in quarters, unit recreation rooms, or specially designated places.

First two women elected to J'lem religious council

BILL HUTMAN

IN an historic vote last night, the Jerusalem city council elected two women to the city's religious council, until now an all-male institution.

The council voted 13 to 9 for One Jerusalem candidate Soli Shavit and 13-10 for Tsomet candidate Michal Manor.

The council's haredi bloc found itself in the minority for the first time on a religious council vote, with Mayor Ehud Olmert and three other city coalition members joining the two female candidates.

"This is a great moment for Jerusalem," said councillor Nurit Yarden-Levy (One Jeru-

salem). "Women will finally have representation they have long needed on the religious council."

Shavit and Manor are both Orthodox, but have been rejected in the past as candidates for the council. The city council has been under pressure from the High Court of Justice to justify why it has always turned down women candidates, as well as Reform and Masorti ones.

Manor's candidacy was questioned by haredi councillors on grounds she was allegedly not a Jerusalem resident. Olmert ruled that the vote would stand, pending a decision by the city's legal advisor.

Kinneret level up and rising

DAVID RUDGE

IT now seems certain the Deganya sluice gates will have to be opened before the end of the winter to prevent Lake Kinneret from overflowing, Mekorot officials said yesterday.

The exceptionally wet start to the winter has raised the level of the lake to within 1.45 meters of its maximum mark.

The recent rainfall - forecast to continue today, accompanied by occasional thunderstorms and the risk of flooding in low-lying areas - is expected to further raise the Kinneret's level.

Mekorot spokesman Yael Shoham said the chances the sluice gates would have to be opened by the end of January or the beginning of February have now risen to over 90 percent.

Mekorot chief engineer Shimon Tal told the company's board of directors yesterday that over 19.5 million cubic meters of water had been diverted from catchment reservoirs to the coastal aquifer.

Tal said this has helped improve the quantity of water in the underground reservoir, although there are still problems of high levels of salinity.

He noted that overall precipitation in most parts of the country has already reached around 70 percent of the winter average, and as much as 100 percent in southern regions.

Tal revealed that Mekorot supplied over 1.2 billion cubic meters of water to consumers in 1994, an increase of 40 million cubic meters compared with the previous year.

The rain forecast for today is expected to turn to snow on Mt. Hermon, which is also enjoying an earlier than usual start to the skiing season. The wet weather is expected to taper off tomorrow.

Tourist to be deported after crashing Nitzana crossing

AN American tourist who crashed his car through the Nitzana border crossing and entered Egyptian territory illegally Wednesday is to be deported.

Raymond Rice, 38, was arrested Wednesday after being returned to Israeli territory by the Egyptians. He had arrived at the crossing at 6 a.m. and failed to obey soldiers' orders to stop, ramming the IDF and Egyptian barricades, causing damage.

Egyptian officials arrested him, and a check showed he was drunk. Rice was brought before a Beersheba Magistrate's Court judge, whom police asked to remand him for another eight days.

Rice told the court he did not know he had to get permission to cross the border, and asked that he not be arrested, noting he had a plane ticket for January that he could trade in for one he could use sooner. He agreed to post bond so that he could leave the country after a deportation order is prepared. He agreed to remain at his Jerusalem hotel until he leaves.

The judge agreed, and ordered Rice to post NIS 3,000 in cash, to be returned when he leaves the country.

(Itim)

Tiberias using Piranha scare to take a bite out of tourism market

DAVID RUDGE

THE piranha fish scare in Lake Kinneret is now being used as a gimmick to promote tourism to the region over the winter.

The predatory fish is depicted being taken for a ride by a woman water skier in a publicity campaign due to hit the press next week.

"The flesh-eating fish had threatened to turn Tiberias and especially the lake into a no-go area, but now that it has been categorically ascertained that no piranha exist in the Kinneret, we are using it to actually pro-

mote tourism," said a spokesman for the Tiberias tourism association.

The headline for the NIS 250,000 publicity campaign reads that the only thing being "torn and cut in Tiberias are the prices of hotel accommodations and recreation."



Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau (r) and his brother, Naftali Lavie, yesterday examine photos at Jerusalem's Zionist Archives of themselves arriving in Haifa as young boys. The photos, part of a collection discovered recently, were taken by Tim Gidal during the War of Independence. The Spielberg Foundation helped assemble the collection. (Isaac Harari)

10 arrested in three drug busts

RAINE MARCUS and Itim

FIVE suspected drug dealers, trying to get rid of the evidence when they realized the police were at their door, threw several packets of heroin out the window - right into the hands of detectives below.

The Tel Aviv narcotics squad, which had raided the apartment on Wednesday evening, discovered a total of 470 grams of heroin - with a street value of \$30,000 - in the apartment.

In two other drug cases, a Beduin from an encampment near Ramat Hovav allegedly attempted to sell a large quantity of marijuana to undercover police posing as drug dealers. Freij Salman Shalibi, 24, was remanded for 12 days by Beersheba Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Four suspected drug dealers were arrested yesterday in Zaviel and Revava, moshavim near Kiryat Gat. Sixty-three grams of heroin were found in the home of one of them, and 4.5 kilos of marijuana in that of another. The four face a remand hearing today.

Amir Ruzenblit contributed to this report.

Jerusalem Municipality to name street for Deir Yassin commander

BILL HUTMAN

AN ETZEL officer involved in the late 1940s bombing of the King David Hotel and the attack on Deir Yassin is to have a street named after him by the Jerusalem Municipality.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert rejected a last-minute bid by councillor Anat Hoffman (Meretz) last night to deny the honor to Yehoshua Goldschmidt, killed in the War of Independence.

Olmert personally pushed through the decision earlier in the week to honor Goldschmidt, citing the hotel bombing and village attack as among his "heroic acts."

The bombing of the King David Hotel on July 22, 1946, was "among the factors that forced

the British to leave Israel, and would not have succeeded if it was not for the actions of Goldschmidt," Olmert said.

"Yehoshua also showed great strategic and commanding abilities. He planned and commanded the Deir Yassin operation," Olmert added, referring to the April 9, 1948, attack on the Arab village.

Olmert rejected Hoffman's petition, saying, "If he had been a murderous Fatah terrorist that we had decided to honor, you would not have said anything."

Goldschmidt was killed in the battle for the Police Cadet's School in northern Jerusalem by Jordanian legionnaires. He is buried in the Mount Herzl Military Cemetery.

In memoriam: Miriam Gafni

PHILADELPHIA-born Miriam Gafni, whose life ended tragically in a car accident on November 30, made aliyah at the beginning of 1993. But her fluency in Hebrew and her knowledge of Israel made it seem as if she had been born here.

Miriam's links with Israel were part of her personal identity. She met her husband, Judge Abraham Gafni, when they were both students at the Hebrew University. Her involvement in Jewish communal life and Jewish education in Philadelphia led to her first attendance at a Jewish Agency Assembly in Israel in 1986, as a delegate of the United Israel Appeal Inc.

Miriam's amazing abilities to grasp information, to process it, to come up with constructive solutions, and to advocate them with lucidity was recognized by all. Soon she was appointed to committees of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors in areas that she held closest to her heart.

She was a member of the authority for Jewish Zionist education, and of the committee for rural and urban development, as well as of the assembly planning committee.

Her concern for women's rights induced her to play a ma-

je role in developing a committee to reform employment policies of the Jewish Agency that had previously been prejudicial to women.

When Miriam and Abe Gafni decided to move to Israel, they chose to link their future to the Galilee, and bought their home in Karmiel. Miriam undertook to work with the Department of Rural and Urban Development to develop tourism in the Galilee, while arranging the expansion and renovation of her new home.

The house was to be a base for welcoming the many friends that she and Abe have throughout the world. These friends include the many people whose problems Miriam could discern with uncanny ability. Fulfilling a promise to a friend was as important to her as changing the minds of powerful decision-makers.

There are thousands who will remember with a smile the audacious hats that were Miriam's trademark, and her infinite capacity to accomplish the things she believed in. Miriam died just as the aspirations she and her husband had for their new life in Israel were nearing fruition. An untimely death. A tragic loss. Ronit Dulev, David Harman, and Neale Katz

NEWS IN BRIEF

Population hits 5.46 million

The population is estimated at 5.46 million, including 4.43 million Jews (81.1%), 777,000 Moslems (14.2%), 161,000 Christians (3.0%), and 92,000 Druse (1.7%), the Central Bureau of Statistics announced. The population grew by about 134,000 in 1994, an increase of approximately 2.5% similar to last year.

Of the total growth in 1994, nearly 60% resulted from natural increase (the number of births minus the number of deaths), and the rest from immigration. During the year, almost 80,000 immigrants arrived, 4% more than in 1993, when about 77,000 immigrants came. In 1994, 85% of all immigrants came from the former Soviet Union.

Bone marrow donor needed

Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem is asking the public to undergo blood tests to find a perfect match for Lior Novick, 28, who will die without a bone-marrow transplant. Healthy people 18 to 55 whose family (up to three generations back) originates in Lithuania are asked to call 04-458440, 09-444235, or 08-408289. Volunteers may undergo the blood test on January 10, 2 p.m. to 9 p.m., at any Magen David Adom station.

Police: Guard lied about kidnap story

The guard at the Ramat Aviv nursery school who told police the "Russian mafia" was planning to kidnap children of wealthy parents was lying, police said yesterday.

The guard had told police he was approached by three Russian-speakers who asked him which children were worth kidnapping for a high ransom. But after several interrogations, police concluded that the guard was lying, and are now examining the reasons and may press charges against him.

'Tank thief' remanded until end of legal proceedings

ALON PINKAS and Itim

THE detention of Sgt. Amit Nehemia, charged with stealing a tank and taking it on a joyride near Yavne in October, has been extended until the end of legal proceedings. Nehemia has been in detention for two months.

Lt.-Col. Shai Yaniv, vice-president of the Central Command Military Court, yesterday refused to release Nehemia.

Prosecutor Eilat Bar-Ilan said a psychiatric evaluation had determined he is fit to stand trial, and was sane when he committed his act.

Defense lawyer Arye Chertok argued that the evaluation was

self-serving and misleading. He questioned the ethics of the psychiatrist who did the evaluation.

"In light of the abuse he was subject to, my client had two choices - to go crazy or commit suicide," Chertok said.

The trial is to open Monday. Meanwhile, five regular army NCOs from the Jullis base at which Nehemia served will be court-martialed. Judge Advocate-General Brig.-Gen. Ilan Schiff announced yesterday.

They will be charged with ordering Nehemia to drive Patton tanks, even though his license was only for Centurions.

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مكتبة النخيل

UN observer hit by Iraqi gunfire

KUWAIT (Reuters) — A UN observer was hit by bullets fired from the Iraqi side of the Iraq-Kuwait border early yesterday morning, a UN officer said.

He said Captain Danut Ivanov, in his 30s, was on a routine patrol in the demilitarized border zone when several shots were fired from an unidentified source on the Iraqi side. He was hit in the legs but his condition is stable.

"A few shots were fired from the Iraqi side of the border 15 minutes after midnight... from an unidentified source," the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observers Mission (UNIKOM) officer said.

The Kuwait news agency quoted a defense ministry statement as saying Iraqi troops fired the shots. In New York, a UN

spokesman said Danut was wounded while patrolling the Kuwait side of the border.

A piece of metal was removed from Ivanov's thigh in an operation in hospital, the source said, adding the bullets were fired from an AK-47.

Since the end of the 1990-91 Gulf crisis over Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, UNIKOM has been patrolling a 210 km-long newly-demarcated border strip that stretches five km into Kuwait and 10 km into Iraq.

It was the latest in a series of such incidents at the border since Kuwait was rid of Iraqi occupiers nearly four years ago. In August, a Bangladeshi soldier serving with the UN observer force was killed. (Agencies)

N. Korea: Pilot admits to 'illegal intrusion'

SEOUL (Reuters) — Pyongyang marked the 13th day of custody of a US pilot yesterday by publishing what it said was his confession to "illegal intrusion" into North Korea, but Washington flatly denied any suggestion of espionage.

Pyongyang said Chief Warrant Officer Bobby Hall confessed on Christmas Day to flying deep into North Korean airspace and had asked for forgiveness and to be allowed home.

It released a photograph of what it said was Hall's seven-page handwritten letter.

Hall's helicopter crashed in North Korea on December 17. Pyongyang says it shot down the aircraft and that co-pilot David Hilemon was killed in the crash. Washington says the helicopter had strayed accidentally over North Korea.

Hall's alleged statement, which also says he was shot down, was published a day after Thomas Hubbard, US deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, arrived in Pyongyang to try to win his release.

Hubbard yesterday had talks with North Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Kang Sok-chu, the

official (North) Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said. It gave no details.

The United States said it could not confirm Hall's confession and continued to reject North Korean charges earlier this week that the helicopter was on a spy mission.

"I admit that this criminal action is inexcusable and unpardonable. However, at home my parents, wife and kids are anxiously waiting for my return to them," Hall, 28, was quoted as saying by KCNA.

While never using the words "espionage" or "spying," Hall allegedly confesses to having "illegally intruded deep" into North Korea and having "deviated" from a prearranged route.

An analyst at the unification ministry in South Korea said the use of vocabulary was not an issue.

"Espionage is never stated, but if you read carefully, Hall talks of an 'observation reconnaissance' and this, in the North's view, means he admits spying," he said.

He said the timing of the publication was designed to gain more leverage in negotiations with the United States and added that it had all the hallmarks of a confession under duress.



Rescue workers crowd around the downed Turkish Airlines jet which crashed yesterday killing 53. (AP)

53 dead in Turkey plane crash

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — A Turkish Airlines jet with 76 people aboard crashed in eastern Turkey in heavy snow yesterday, killing 53, officials said.

Murat Ozkan, deputy governor of Van, told state TV that 23 people survived and were hospitalized. Most aboard the plane were military personnel, the Anatolia news agency reported.

The Boeing 737 crashed around 14:15 GMT only 3 km from its destination — the airport in Van, near Iran. The plane was making its third attempt to land after two previous tries were aborted due to harsh weather, said Faik Akin, a spokesman for the national carrier.

Akin told private ATV television the plane apparently missed the runway because of low visibility and hit the ground. He said there were no indications the plane hit a mountain, as reported earlier.

Akin said visibility was 300 meters well below the normal level of 2,000 meters.

Survivor Abdullah Aslan, speaking from his hospital bed, told private Show TV the plane almost touched the runway but pulled up at the last minute.

"After it hit the ground, I got up and walked out of the plane. There were screams and I helped a few others to get out too," he said.

The government sent investigators to the scene. The plane's black box was not immediately found.

Three survivors underwent operations, said Ferit Okyar, a doctor at Van's state hospital. One of the crew members was suffering from hypothermia, he said. The flight had a crew of seven.

Akin blamed the poor infrastructure of Van airport for the crash. "Our airports in eastern parts of the country are not as developed as the ones in the west. Harsh weather conditions further deteriorate the conditions," he said.

Ozkan said military personnel were sent to help in the rescue, and were joined by local residents.

A passenger list did not include foreign names.

Chechen head ready to talk peace

MAXIM KORZHOV
GROZNY

WITH Russian bombers roaring overhead and artillery thudding on the edges of his besieged capital, Chechnya's leader reportedly told the Kremlin yesterday he's ready to talk peace.

Despite the lengthening odds faced by out-manned Chechen forces, it was by no means clear President Dzhokhar Dudayev was backing down. He has steadfastly refused to negotiate unless Russian troops withdraw from Chechnya.

Radio Mayak of Moscow and the Interfax news agency, citing unnamed sources in the Chechen capital Grozny, said Dudayev had sent a telegram notifying Russia of his intent to hold talks. They said Dudayev called the offer unconditional, but previous offers he also labeled unconditional have in fact held to the withdrawal demand.

A spokesman for the Russian government press service said he could not confirm the reports, and Chechen officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

Heavy fighting raged on the edges of Grozny as Russian forces tried to press their attack on the rebel capital from north and east.

Thick clouds of smoke rose from the indus-

trial district as Russian bombers roared overhead and artillery thudded on the fringes of the breakaway republic's capital.

Airstrikes pounded the already-devastated city throughout the day.

"We simply cannot keep track of how many buildings are destroyed, how many people are dead," said Aslanbek Dadayev of the official Chechen news agency.

Dudayev, now operating out of a bomb shelter under the presidential palace in besieged Grozny, broke off peace talks after three days earlier this month amid Russian bombing attacks.

In the telegram, according to the reports, Dudayev expressed hope that Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin would participate in talks but the Chechen leadership also "agrees to hold such talks at any other level."

On Wednesday night, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said the door remained open for talks. But, he said, if the Chechens refused to work toward a political

solution "as much force as is necessary will be used to settle this matter."

The Russians hold a huge advantage in manpower and equipment, with as many as 40,000 troops to only several thousand Chechens, and have made advances in recent days.

He said at least 130 civilians were killed Wednesday when Russia resumed air strikes after a two-day lull despite President Boris Yeltsin's promise to stop bombing Grozny.

Chechen officials told the Interfax news agency that Russian forces had halted their advance on Grozny and were digging trenches on the edge of the city some four to six km from the center.

Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said Moscow's forces would advance into Grozny to seize weapons but would not storm the city with all-out force.

"We do not intend anything of the kind, since there are civilians in the town," Interfax quoted him as telling journalists in Moscow. Russia's general headquarters for the offensive. "But we will continue to advance deep into the town with a view to confiscating weapons and eradicating gangs." (AP)

UN calls for more truce talks with Serbs

PALE (AP) — Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic indicated yesterday that he could sign on to a four-month truce for Bosnia.

But the UN commander in Bosnia, after four hours of talks with Karadzic at this Serb stronghold east of Sarajevo, said more negotiations lay ahead.

"There is good will on both sides, and I hope we're going to get some conclusion by the weekend," Lt. Gen. Sir Michael Rose told reporters. He said "details" were still being discussed but did not elaborate.

Facing a deadline tomorrow for locking in the four-month cessation of hostilities, Rose stepped up his shuttle negotiations and headed for talks with Bosnian Vice-President Ejup Ganic in Sarajevo.

Rose was presenting both sides with a new draft of the agreement for the Serbs and the Muslim-led government to stop fighting for four months, freeze front lines and withdraw some troops.

Earlier, Karadzic said his side may even sign the agreement yesterday. On Wednesday, Rose traveled to the Bihac enclave in northwestern Bosnia, where fighting has threatened to unravel an initial one-week cease-fire that took hold across Bosnia last Saturday.

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We, the parents and siblings of Noa Esther Schwartz, together with the members of the Public Committee and friends of "The Fund to Save Noa Esther Schwartz", turn to you again with great urgency, to help us continue to provide Noa the necessary respiratory rehabilitation treatment in both lungs, diagnostic treatment and medical follow-up. This treatment follows the operations, conducted in Brompton Hospital in London in June 1993 and September 1994, in which metastases were removed from both lungs. These surgeries were conducted after Noa underwent a long series of operations and chemotherapy treatment in Israel and abroad.

These included surgery to remove a growth in the bone of her right leg and to insert a 25 cm, metal implant. There have been a total of eight operations in the last five years between 1989-1994. According to the recommendations of her doctors in Israel and abroad, Noa is in need of medical follow-up using the CT IMATRON apparatus which is located in the U.S., England and a number of other countries excluding Israel, where there is no such apparatus available.

We have arrived at a critical and sensitive point where the precise follow-up of what is happening in Noa's lungs is essential to saving her life, since half of her right lung and portion of her left lung have been removed, due to the metastases which were detected in them.

We are scheduled to travel to the Brompton Hospital in London in the very near future, for essential tests using the IMATRON apparatus and at that time the surgeons and oncologists will determine Noa's prognosis. Today Noa is capable of breathing 70% of the respiratory ability of someone of her age. She suffers from shortness of breath which restricts her normal functioning.

Noa has become a symbol, due to her heroic struggle with the disease which was detected when she was twelve years of age. Despite all the difficulties and great suffering she has experienced time after time, she has faced this disease with great courage, and thank God she has retained her strong spirit and her frail body is coping.

Please help us grant life to this remarkable girl who is so deserving, and who so longs to do her national service which is scheduled to begin at the end of this year, following her graduation from the Ulpanit Bnei Akiva High School in Tel-Aviv. Without your noble aid, we would not have been able to carry this difficult and heavy burden. We receive no aid from Kupat Cholim Leumi sick fund, nor from any other institution. We therefore ask you to stand by our side once again in this wonderful campaign to save a life.

Emergency aid can be transferred directly to the home of Haya and Moshe Schwartz, 8 Harav Unterman st. Petach-Tikva, 49270, or directly to the "Fund to Save Noa Esther Schwartz" bank account at Bank Mizrahi (Bank 20 Seaside branch 452, Kikar Haatzmaut 12 Netanya 42271, Account 531570).

Rabbis of cities and settlements, heads of communities in Israel and abroad, alumni of Bnei Akiva, Yeshivot Hesder, Noam Schools and anyone concerned with the suffering of others, are asked to donate what they can, in order to grant Noa life.

Haya and Moshe Schwartz
and the Family

With our warmest blessings,

the Committee for the Saving of
Noa Esther Schwartz

"חוקי יריים רבות נברכים כושלות אמנו" (ישעיהו לה: ג)
May all those who help be blessed!

Rabbi Abraham Shapira - Former Chief Rabbi of the State of Israel, Rabbi Chaim Drukman - Rosh-Yeshiva, Hesder Or-Ezion, Rabbi Shimon Zelman Oyerbach - Rosh-Yeshiva, Kol-Tora Jerusalem, Rabbi Zelman Nehemiah Goldberg - Dean Beit Din of Jerusalem, Rabbi Simcha-Hachohen Kook - Chief Rabbi of Rehovot, Rabbi Baruch-Shimon Salomon - Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi of Petach-Tikva, Rabbi Moshe Malca - Chief Sephardi Rabbi of Petach-Tikva, Rabbi Michael Melchior - Chief Rabbi of Norway, Rabbi Joshua Magnes - R"m in Yeshiva Mercaz Harav, Jerusalem, Mr. Abraham Marmorstein - Former Vice-Mayor of Petach-Tikva, Mr. Elchanan Glati-Chaiman "Bnei Akiva" Israel, Mr. Itzhak Stiglitz - World Chairman "Bnei Akiva", Mr. I. Dior (Dutik) - Chairman of the Religious Kibutz, Mr. David Feldman - C.P.A.-Treasurer, Mr. Shaul Melishish - Journalist - Writer, Mrs. Yaffa Magnes - Principal "Ulpanit Bnei Akiva" Tel Aviv, Mrs. Zipora Zuckerman - Principal "Yeshurun" Religious Junior High School, Petach-Tikva.

Japanese dig themselves out of quake

HACHINOHE, Japan (AP) —

With cleanup efforts underway and most businesses back up and running, life was returning to normal in this small coastal city yesterday, a day after it was rocked by an undersea earthquake.

People began clearing debris and broken glass, leaving the damage of ripped roads, landslides, damaged rail tracks and wrecked homes and buildings for construction crews to tackle later.

Strong aftershocks continued to rattle northern Japan yesterday, and experts said caution was needed for another month. A to-

tal of 135 aftershocks — including one with a preliminary magnitude of 6.2 — jolted the region through the night, the Central Meteorological Agency said.

But many in Hachinohe, a coastal city of 240,000 people 150 km west of the epicenter, expressed relief that the damage from the 7.5 magnitude quake was not worse. Two people were killed and 274 injured in the city.

The two deaths and eight of the injuries occurred when a pinball game parlor collapsed. Most of

the other injured were cut by broken glass or hit by falling objects. Police said most of those hurt — at least 179 — were in Hachinohe.

Water pipes damaged by the quake left 30,000 households in the city without water yesterday. Self-Defense Forces were trucking water in, and residents collected it in buckets and big plastic bags.

At least 76 houses were damaged or destroyed, three landslides were reported and, in parts of Hachinohe, electricity was cut for some time, authorities said.

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The triple summit

FOREIGN Minister Shimon Peres's assurances that the Alexandria summit was not anti-Israel, but only pro-Syrian, will comfort few Israelis. Like the repeated Foreign Ministry denials of difficulties in the Cairo-Jerusalem relationship, such assurances underestimate the public's common sense.

Clearly, Egypt has been zealously and tenaciously acting against Israeli interests at every opportunity. And just as clearly, it has positioned itself firmly in Syria's corner in the Israel-Syria negotiations. By hosting the Alexandria summit, it has dropped all pretense of impartiality. It is determined to join in the Syrian effort to force Israel to withdraw to the 1949 armistice lines in return for no more than a promise of Arab acceptance. And it wants Israel not only to return to its "natural size," as president Hosni Mubarak once put it, but to be denied the protection of non-conventional deterrence.

What the three regimes gathered in Alexandria are worried about is that external pressures on Israel to withdraw will diminish, while internal resistance to withdrawal grows. In Washington, the administration is less prone to twisting Israel's arm than the Bush administration was, and the new Congress is likely to approve neither large American subsidies for a peace agreement nor the stationing of American troops to make the Golan evacuation palatable. On the other hand, distant, non-confrontational Arab countries, looking after their own interests, seem eager to establish diplomatic and

trade relations with Israel even before "comprehensive peace" — a euphemism for full withdrawal — is achieved.

That Jordan dared sign a peace treaty with Israel without Syrian approval is perceived by Syria as a serious setback. More than anything, the summit was intended as a slap at Jordan. Not only has King Hussein afforded Israel an opportunity to relish a diplomatic victory and bide its time in the negotiations with Syria; he has set a precedent by not demanding an Israeli withdrawal from every last inch of "occupied land." Only a lack of sensitivity to Jordan's position could have made Peres praise this summit.

Understandably, the Syrians want to impress on Israel that the treaty with Jordan is a relatively insignificant step on the way to "comprehensive peace." Even an agreement with Syria is not the end of the road, they now intimate. As long as Iraq is outside the loop, there can be no real peace.

In this they are joined by some Israeli decision-makers, who believe that, despite American objections, Israel should seek a dialogue with Saddam Hussein. Indeed, there is a certain logic in the assertion that as long as there is still one hostile Arab regime, Israel cannot depend on peace agreements with other Arab countries.

As the Alexandria summit has shown, when an Arab leader has to choose between treaty obligations to Israel on the one hand and anti-Israel Arab solidarity on the other, he does not suffer from pangs of indecision.

Dangerous Sinai precedent

THE transfer to Egypt this week of all archaeological finds unearthed by Israel in the Sinai did not make headlines, but its ramifications may be of lasting significance.

There is no precedent for a gesture of this kind. The Hague Convention of 1954, which prohibits removing archaeological treasures from their indigenous locations, has been generally ignored by the world community. Israel is the first country to relinquish such finds. It is not as if it robbed museums or existing archaeological sites. All exploration in the Sinai was initiated by Israeli archaeologists.

Nor was Israel's interest similar to that of the British, French, and German scientific expeditions which explored Middle East cultures. In the Sinai, Israeli scientists sought their own history, not the cultural traces of others. In fact, Israel's historic connection with the Sinai is far more compelling than Egypt's. Until recently, Egypt was never interested in the Sinai except as a strategic asset. It certainly never explored the Sinai for archaeological finds, and before 1967 it did not even consider it an integral part of Egypt. That it is included in modern Egypt's sovereign area is a result of a colonialist British decision, not of an historic or cultural connection.

Regrettably, there were scores of unique Jewish relics among the finds handed over to Egypt, including Hebrew writings from the First Temple period. True, Israeli scientists believe that the actual items are not as important as the opportunity Israel has had to examine them. But the fact is that these precious articles, all belonging to the Jewish people's national heritage, are no longer in Israeli hands.

The Egyptians are openly ecstatic about the Israeli gesture. This is not because they are particularly interested in the Sinai finds, but because they hope the precedent set by Israel will be emulated by Britain, France, the US, and other countries in whose museums vast quantities of Egyptian archaeological treasures are stored. Nor is Egypt about to reciprocate the gesture. With typical churlishness, Cairo has flatly refused to lend Israel even one or two of the more important Jewish items it has received. So much for "normalization."

Yet for all of the Sinai treasures' importance, Israel's main battle for its archaeological heritage is still ahead. With what must qualify as the ultimate hutzpa of all time, the Palestinian Authority is not only claiming ownership of biblical archaeological sites in Judea and Samaria; it is demanding the "return" of items found in these areas. And as if to ensure that Israelis appreciate the enormity of the demand, the Palestinians insist that even the Dead Sea Scrolls, those extraordinary Hebrew documents written by Jews in the land of Judea, should be among the items Israel must forfeit.

Such demands would be laughable had the government not shown a tendency to consider the quest for peace a quasi-religious mission rather than a political pursuit. If the present process leads to the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state in Judea and Samaria — an almost foregone conclusion — the Sinai precedent may come to haunt Israel. After all, the Dead Sea Scrolls, like so many archaeological treasures in Israeli museums, were indeed removed from an area which will most likely be in a Palestinian state.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ISRAEL'S CAPITAL

Sir, — Listening to the BBC World Service recently I took note of one of their executives boasting of their much vaunted reputation for objectivity and impartiality. He said he could sum it up in one word: truthfulness.

This hardly equates with a couple of statements about our capital city in recent days.

When Israel and Jordan opened their embassies in Amman and Tel Aviv respectively, the BBC headline was: Israel and Jordan have opened embassies "in each other's capitals." On another occasion, the BBC news referred to Warren Christo-

pher endeavoring to improve relations "between Damascus and Tel Aviv."

All of us are aware of the ironies and contradictions involved. As an Australian, I saw former prime minister Bob Hawke, and later his foreign minister Bill Hayden, in Jerusalem. Neither visited Tel Aviv, where the Australian Embassy is located.

One could direct a few pedantic questions to the BBC e.g. why are your reporters located in Jaffa Road, Jerusalem, instead of in "the capital?"

LACHLAN SHAW
Jerusalem.

HUTZPA

Sir, — In response to Marilyn Henry's article of December 16 about Shvil Hazahav, I wish to express my dismay that a group of American rabbis is taking an active and public position, whether right or left-leaning, on the current peace process. It is reasonable for an American rabbi to take a private or even semi-public position, for example, within his own congregation. But it is out of line for anyone, including a rabbi, to take his position publicly while sitting comfortably in America.

Anyone actively involved in a process that will ultimately determine my country's borders should live here as my neighbor and stand ready to face the dangers inherent in his positions. Further, it is presum-

ptuous to imply that the complexities of the issues can be fully grasped without living in Israel and hearing both sides daily on the radio, on TV, in the papers and on the streets.

The attempt by Rabbis Goldin, Lamm, Angel and Lookstein to take an active part in the shaping of the peace process is a hutzpa. Perhaps the rabbis should practice the first and most central tenet of religious Zionism, which they purport to hold dear, and make aliya. Until then, they are kindly requested to keep their opinions within the confines of their synagogues on Park Avenue and the like.

CHUCK DAVIDSON
Beit Shemesh.

"EYE ON THE MEDIA"

Sir, — I am normally a David Bar-Illan fan and value his courageous exposure of all kinds of journalistic falsehoods and fabrications. It seems, however, that in his article of December 2, "The anatomy of a fabrication," he has himself fallen prey to the kind of thing he usually attacks, i.e. one-sided reporting and prejudice.

The untold story by Mary Leigh Summerton about a middle-aged European Jew being stoned to death by Jews at the Western Wall for operating his electric wheelchair on the Sabbath, was indeed a disgusting, antisemitic fabrication and rightly exposed as such. But why did Mr. Bar-Illan have to go to such lengths to attack Ms. Anat Hoffman with whose views many women and some enlightened men wholeheartedly agree?

Some ultra-Orthodox men with their rigid, anti-feminist attitudes can truly be described as "fossilized." It matters little if the translation in question states: "Listening to a woman's voice is like looking at her genitalia," or it is "lascivious." It remains equally offensive, foolish and untrue.

If Ms. Anat Hoffman fights for the rights of women to worship and sing in praise of the Almighty at the Western Wall, like any other group, all I can say is: More power to her and to her voice!

GILA FARNWORTH
Tel Aviv.



The wisdom of Jimmy Carter

ABBA EBAN

ATLANTA is the acknowledged capital of the American South and the rate of its expansion defies belief.

When we asked a driver to take my wife and me to visit president and Mrs. Carter in the Carter Center, he reacted as one who had been offered a sort of pilgrimage.

The American people has never known how to come to terms with its 39th president. He is in the tradition of the founders, like Madison, Adams and Monroe, who exchanged scholarly pieties about abstruse scriptural passages while "also" dealing with such prosaic issues as the purchase of Louisiana and the conquest of a continent.

The claim of America to a greater degree of idealism than that professed by other nations has caused discomfort in the realist school of American diplomacy. Arthur Schlesinger Jr. speaks of "a righteous moralism that encouraged the American people to construe political questions in ethical terms, local questions in global terms, relative questions in absolute terms."

George Kennan sees "the most serious fault of [America's] past policy to lie in the legalistic, moralistic approach to international problems." Hans Morgenthau, whose writings dominate so many American campus lecture rooms, echoes this complaint. Henry Kissinger's brilliant study, *Diplomacy*, diagnoses American policy as influenced by Wilsonianism, which includes a claim to Ameri-

can "exceptionalism" and an obsession with collective security.

My impression is that these may be criticisms of American rhetoric rather than of American policy. When concrete interests are at stake, the US knows how to assert them. The result is that the US, like the rest of us, makes its decisions in the name of national interest, and then explains

science that any temporary conflict between them could easily be resolved."

THE ALLEGED distinction in American diplomacy between those who ask: "What is the right thing to do?" and those who ask: "What is the most useful and advantageous thing to do?" seems to me of dubious utility.

The Schlesinger, Kennan,

A trusted, prudent third party can be effective behind the scenes of conflicts

them in the name of visionary altruism.

The need to find ethical explanations for pragmatic decisions is irresistible. The most famous example is that of president William McKinley, who spent the whole night on his knees praying for divine guidance before annexing the Philippines. He was determined not to accept a negative answer and persisted in his supplications until the heavenly will was worn down by attrition.

Even the virtuous Woodrow Wilson, having promulgated the principle of "open covenants," organized the most closed and conspiratorial peace conference in history with three other leaders as the only effective participants. Harold Nicolson wrote in his exquisite book, *Peacemaking 1919*, that "Woodrow Wilson lived on such intimate terms with his con-

Morgenthau, Kissinger school is not impervious to American values, and the liberals who are attentive to world opinion are not recklessly oblivious to considerations of consequence. Most American decisions are a compromise between what justice demands and what circumstances permit.

Jimmy Carter falls outside these stereotypes. It was clear to me in my meeting with him that the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty is the crown jewel of his achievements. Israeli rightists would do well to note the embarrassing fact that Carter secured Menachem Begin's assent to the principle that peace treaties with Syria and other Arab states should follow the same principle as the Egyptian treaty, the chief of which was the reestablishment of the "international boundary."

What is unique in Carter's case is his prudent insistence on securing the consent of his own government to his initiatives. Hard-headed foreign governments prefer his mediation precisely because he does not represent power, so that the fate of his missions does not give rise to tensions in relations between his interlocutors and the US government.

In the Carter Center I studied some of his handwritten chits in their glass cage. It's clear that his suggestions for bridging delicate gaps made it possible for two temperamental heads of government to conclude their agreements.

This reminds us that a trusted third party is sometimes able to make proposals which neither of two interested parties could initiate himself or accept from his adversary. Another virtue of the Carter style is that he can act "behind the scenes." This is far superior to the clamor of public debates in multilateral agencies. If a doctor had to decide on a difficult operation, would he really assemble 185 other surgeons, debate his options and then decide the matter by majority vote?

Carter understands that the only good reason for the existence of "scenes" is the possibility of doing important things behind them. In Haiti, North Korea and Bosnia no harm came from his missions and historians may determine that his influence was salutary.

The writer is a former foreign minister.

The Alexandria predicament

MOSHE ZAK

AT THE LAST cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres exchanged remarks about relations with Egypt. While Rabin focused on Egypt's leadership of the anti-Israeli campaign in the international arena, Peres pleaded for understanding of the constraints on President Mubarak.

Egypt, Peres explained, "is seeking its way. It wants to be a central factor in the Middle East, simultaneously maintaining its relations with Israel and the US and its standing in the Arab and Moslem worlds."

Peres's remarks were leaked to the media. Rabin's position, anchored in intelligence evaluations of widespread Egyptian activity against Israel, wasn't.

Thus a picture has been drawn of Egypt's conduct which fits the concept of normalization that formed the basis of the peace treaty.

The US administration knows that Egypt is earning huge sums from deals executed on behalf of Muammar Gaddafi, currently constricted by the anti-Libyan embargo for supporting international terrorism. And reports received in Washington say that President Mubarak's son, who heads the company working with Libya, is reaping huge gains from these deals.

The US is continuing to press Cairo to end these deals. It wants to support the Egyptian economy, but not at the cost of giving up the war against international terrorism. It is demanding that Libya hand over the men responsible for blowing up a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie four years ago.

Israel understands Egypt's difficulties, and would like to see Mubarak overcome the fanatic opponents he is fighting daily. But if, in order to defeat his foes at home and abroad, Mubarak needs to distance himself from the notion of normalization with Jerusalem, clearly this is something Israel cannot welcome.

What kind of normalization is it when the Egyptian president invites the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Syria to Alexandria for discussions on ways to limit Israel's effort to establish relations with other Arab states; when he contends that he cannot visit Jerusalem because such a visit might hurt Syria?

This is anything but normalization, since Egypt is part of a Syrian ploy to slow down the peace process. The Alexandria summit

authority on how to maneuver Israel into a position where our foreign minister recognizes Faisal Hussein as a member of the negotiating team on implementing the Oslo agreement.

This contradicts the accepted view in Israel that negotiations on Palestinian autonomy must not be conducted with a resident of Jerusalem.

More serious is the negative precedent Egypt has set regarding substantive aspects of peace.

The danger of political warfare existing alongside normalization

that concluded yesterday is an outstanding example of this.

No one can force Egyptians to "fraternize" with Israelis or visit Israel as tourists. Nor does the rise in the number of Egyptian tourists (mainly Palestinians) holding Egyptian passports or Egyptians visiting Gaza and Jericho in itself make relations with Israel normal.

When the Egyptian Artists' Association expels an Egyptian artist for the "sin" of visiting Israel, and when Israel is boycotted by congresses held in Egypt, one might understand Mubarak's constraints — but there's no reason to forgive these actions.

One doesn't have to praise the president for his contribution in accelerating the peace process with other Middle Eastern countries when, in fact, the opposite is true.

EGYPT ISN'T mediating between Israel and Syria. Damascus prefers American mediation bearing dollar dividends, and isn't prepared to accord Cairo the status. Nor is Egypt mediating between Israel and the PLO. On the contrary, it is instructing members of the Palestinian Au-

thority on how to maneuver Israel into a position where our foreign minister recognizes Faisal Hussein as a member of the negotiating team on implementing the Oslo agreement.

This contradicts the accepted view in Israel that negotiations on Palestinian autonomy must not be conducted with a resident of Jerusalem.

More serious is the negative precedent Egypt has set regarding substantive aspects of peace.

Israel has shown great generosity toward Jordan as regards water resources. But increasing Israel's economic burden by financially supporting the PA and the large trade deficit with neighboring countries will not bring about a new Middle East. The only thing it can cause is an Israeli economic crisis.

Israelis cannot eat humous in Damascus, but it's no secret to Syria that we are buying Syrian oil on the spot market in Alexan-

dria, despite the Arab boycott.

It won't be the quantity of humous Israelis consume in Damascus that determines the nature of peace — just as peace with Jordan won't be defined by the amount of food Israeli tourists ingest in Amman, Petra or Aqaba. Peace will succeed to the extent that it moves along a two-way street of reciprocal relations between Israel and each of its neighbors.

The Egyptian precedent, a lame one from the viewpoint of economic relations, is beginning to limp along in political relations as well, with Egypt attempting to reunite the Arab world under its leadership, flying the flag of containing Israel.

This development should be stemmed in time to stop Syria relying on the Egyptian precedent, even in theory. It would be dangerous for Hafez Assad to believe that normalization is not a sine qua non of a peace treaty, or that it leaves room to continue the political struggle against Israel.

In trying to warm up the cold peace with Egypt, it is difficult to remedy the mistakes of the past. But Israel can prevent these mistakes being made in the talks with Syria.

Before military experts from both sides examine security arrangements on the border in the event of an Israeli withdrawal, it is worth ensuring that normalization is understood not just as establishing embassies with flags flying, but as ending political and psychological belligerence.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

POSTSCRIPT

EVEN NIGHTLIFE can have a political purpose in China, now that communist officials have ordered entertainment spots to buy a laser disc featuring 55 patriotic songs.

The Ministry of Culture announced that all of China's more

than 200,000 nightclubs and singing halls must obtain a copy of the laser disc by the end of the year or face losing their licenses.

The new rule was intended to foster patriotism "among the masses."

مكتبة القدس

Deals on wheels

MEIR RONNEN

A funny thing happened after Jerusalem was unified in 1967. Sabbath drivers suddenly found they could use roads they had previously approached with a great deal of trepidation — for it was put to the haredi population that it was no longer possible to assume a car was being driven by a Jew.

Other roads which had previously led to dead ends now opened the way to new vistas and pleasures and even to alternative ways of crossing the city.

This vehicular idyll was short-lived. It was brought to an end by four successive, ongoing developments: the rapid rise in the num-

wishes of drivers transporting students to the many religious schools that have sprung up in the area.

Needless to say, the entire area of Me'or Baruch, like many other haredi areas, is totally closed to traffic on the Sabbath.

Mayor Olmert, appearing on TV this week to deny that Rehov Bar-Ilan would be closed to traffic — at least until a public debate and municipal vote has taken place — smugly noted that over 130 streets were closed to Sabbath traffic during Teddy Kollek's tenure, but not a single one during his.

But despite Mayor Olmert's suave display of self-righteousness, it isn't hard to see, given the municipal coalition, how this municipal vote will go.

Closing Rehov Bar-Ilan will leave just one east-west Khyber Pass open to vehicles entering the city on Shabbat — the only day on which they can do so without running into horrific traffic jams at the entrance to the city, where there are more than a dozen traffic lights in an area less than a square kilometer. For both sides of the Khyber are now flanked by haredi suburbs.

It is not beyond a stretch of the imagination to assume that the Khyber will soon be closed off altogether.

As for the hemmed-in hapless secular residents of Ma'alot Dafna unlucky enough to own cars — not to mention those also threatened in Ramat Eshkol — the only immediate solution will be evacuation.

But to where? Are peaceable exchanges of areas a viable option? Or is it possible that all the secular drivers in the capital will soon be faced with what our Arab neighbors would call *transfer*?

This would leave the city with no one but the haredim and the municipal traffic department. Perhaps they deserve each other.

The writer is a veteran journalist and a political cartoonist.

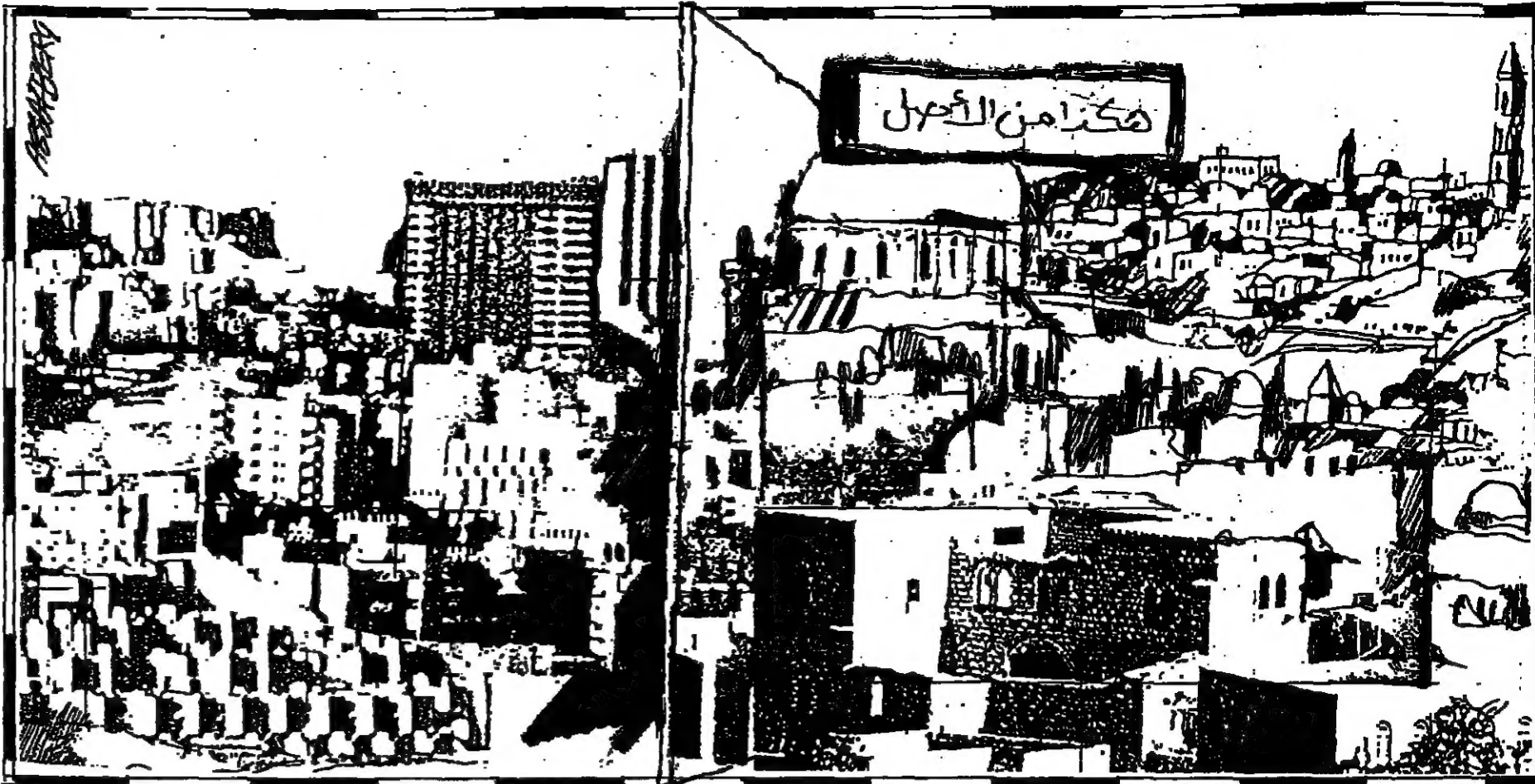
The capital's secular drivers are feeling hemmed in by the haredim

ber of vehicles entering, leaving or remaining in the city; the rapid rise in the number of haredi families and areas consequently closed to traffic on Shabbat; the arbitrary and even idiotic traffic arrangements instituted by the municipal traffic department; and the intifada.

As a result, whole areas of the city are virtually out of bounds to any sensible driver during the entire week. And even larger sections are just as dangerous on Shabbat.

Further, certain suburbs have been turned into labyrinths. An example is Me'or Baruch, which has become completely haredi and where, for the last decade or more, there hasn't been a single through road leading to the city center from the entrance to Jerusalem.

Unwilling to believe that municipal traffic planners are totally demented, one can only presume that the division of previous through-roads into opposing one-way sections conforms to the



A defense of the capital is still possible

ARIEL SHARON

ORIENT HOUSE, the future Palestinian foreign ministry in Jerusalem, is a hive of activity. In the mornings, Faisal Husseini receives visiting dignitaries. At noon, he gives a news conference, and in the afternoon he sees a foreign diplomatic mission. Agreements are signed. The American, European and Israeli "desks" are busy.

He should have been warned to halt this activity. But when is he accessible? During the day, he conducts his political activity, and in the evening, he drinks excellent Turkish coffee with an Israeli cabinet minister in the home of a Jerusalem friend.

That minister's people are, at the same time, trying to arrest Jibril Rajoub, the Palestinian security chief in Jericho, who recently kicked an Israeli border policeman. But they haven't succeeded, because Rajoub is also a busy man, dining sumptuously at the home of another Israeli minister.

There's an ongoing power

struggle in Jerusalem. The Israel Police want to arrest Rajoub, who has broken the law. But the General Security Service and the IDF high command are protecting him. The GSS believes Husseini is breaching the Oslo agreement and wants to block his activities. But an important cabinet minister, a close friend of Husseini's, is shielding him.

One authority presents PLO commanders with weapons; another wants to search these same men for weapons. The struggle between these Jewish authorities goes on, while Jerusalem's walls come tumbling down.

Husseini proclaims: "Jerusalem's fate will not be decided in negotiations; it will be determined by what we Palestinians do on the ground." And they are doing it with a vengeance.

Forty-three Palestinian institutions are now functioning in eastern Jerusalem, creating the infrastructure for the capital of the Palestinian state. The Palestinian Authority has begun taking over education in the eastern sector of

the city. Hamas is already running an educational network, and is using the Temple Mount as a center for preaching incitement.

All this flies in the face of the Oslo agreement and is a violation of Israeli law. But when it comes to applying civil law in eastern

Jewish authorities struggle against each other, while Jerusalem's fate hangs in the balance

Jerusalem, Israeli rule is noticeable by its absence. Palestinian businessmen are pleading for help, but our police don't get involved.

THIS SITUATION signals the residents that we are about to concede Jerusalem.

There will be an intensifica-

tion of violence," Husseini warns — and the government stays silent. The mayor protests, but the government ignores him.

Is the government deliberately turning a blind eye to PLO and Hamas control of eastern Jerusalem so that, when the time comes, it can claim that they already rule in that part of the city anyway, and that so as not to undermine the other "achievements" of Oslo, this fact must be recognized?

Is the possibility of an early transfer of Bethlehem to the Palestinian Authority and the consequent reduction of Greater Jerusalem also part of a common conspiracy between the government and the PLO, squeezing Jerusalem into the narrowest possible borders so it won't be an "obstacle" in the final-status negotiations with the Palestinians?

Events on the ground, including the left joining the Palestinians in their war against the development of Efrat, are strong testimony that the battle for Jerusalem is now in full swing.

HOW CAN Jerusalem still be defended?

● By giving the highest national priority to strengthening the city, economically and through building infrastructure in every sector, as the mayor is demanding.

● By stepping up building in the city and its environs, and by having Jews populate all sectors. We will lose any neighborhood that has no Jews living in it.

● By transferring Palestinian institutions, including the activities of Orient House, to Gaza. There is now a law enabling this.

● By ensuring total security in Jerusalem, thus restoring the city's unity. And the size of the force needed to achieve this is immaterial.

● By restoring full Israeli rule in Jerusalem. Enforcing Israeli law in the eastern part of the city would prevent the infiltration and control of the area by Palestinian police.

This is the eleventh hour.

The writer, a Likud MK, is a former minister of defense.

My Man of the Year

GABRIEL BEN-DOR

MY MAN of the Year is Histadrut chairman Haim Ramon — the Israeli politician of the future.

In the new Israel of the mid-1990s, with a comprehensive peace still out of reach and personal security at a nadir, people are showing more and more signs of battle fatigue and war weariness. In this atmosphere, the new ideologues are the "capidoves" who combine the dovishness of a Yossi Beilin with a right-wing social orientation.

And no one does this more successfully than Haim Ramon.

Histadrut chairman Haim Ramon is a potent new force

The capidoves would like to see Israel as part of the new world order, in which the US is the dominant power. This order emphasizes economics and pragmatism at the expense of ideological tension — in other words, it places administrative, technological and pragmatic efforts over the value-oriented ones that have been the norm so far.

The capidoves' dovishness doesn't stem from any great sympathy for Palestinians or other Arabs, but solely from an assessment that, without peace, Israel cannot make the transition to modernity and integrate into the global capitalist economic system.

Inside Israel, the capidoves are prepared to dismantle old institutions like the Histadrut and the Jewish Agency in order to destroy the power centers of the old socialist regime.

Their ability to seize power and use it to subvert and revolutionize the system from within is epitomized by Ramon's huge victory over the Labor Party machine in the Histadrut elections and everything he has done since: cutting the organization down to size

and forcing the government to pass the national health insurance law, the consequences of which are so momentous that they are still neither understood nor appreciated.

THE CAPIDOVES are the antithesis of the Ben-Gurionist leadership model of the early days of the state. They speak a new language, and it is increasingly attractive to much of the public.

Of course, this new ideology is full of problems, even holes.

There is no assurance that, by being so dovish, Israel will ever be able to make the Arabs equally dovish, making peace a real possibility; yet this is precisely what the capidoves are gambling on, and they are carrying about half of the Israeli public along with them. They believe that heavy concessions on Israel's part will motivate Arab leaders and the Arab masses to choose economic well-being and material welfare over ideological commitment.

In addition, the new ideology, with its excessively material and pragmatic concerns, fails to provide any new, potent connection between Israel and the Jewish people in the Diaspora, or even to express the Jewishness of the state adequately.

But if salience and impact are the name of the game, the capidoves and, above all, Haim Ramon have to be recognized as a potent new force which is successfully challenging the old political order.

Perhaps this clash of old and new will eventually yield a truly satisfactory synthesis.

The writer is professor of political science at the University of Haifa and director of the graduate studies program at the National Defense College.

The line between statecraft and childishness

CHAI BECKERMAN

THE passage of the new "Orient House Law" is highly satisfying to politicians who maintain that Israeli sovereignty is undermined by active Palestinian institutions in east Jerusalem.

But is it really in Israel's interest to obstruct the functioning of Orient House and other Palestinian institutions in the city? True, institution-building is state-building, as any good Zionist knows. And even Israelis who are reconciled to the idea of a Palestinian state are often extremely sensitive when it comes to issues of sovereignty in the capital.

However, we do ourselves and the city no service when we react so strongly to the word "sovereignty" that we lose track of what is at stake.

In addressing Palestinian demands, security and not sentiment must be our bottom line. It cannot be that elsewhere in the land, peace requires sacrifice and in the capital it does not. If we do not want to pay the price of taking an all-or-nothing stance on Jerusalem in blood, money, and world prestige, we must find room for flexibility.

Practical arrangements in the city need to acknowledge the enormous symbolic importance Jerusalem carries for two peoples, as a spiritual legacy and because circumstances have turned those peoples into nationalists.

Those trained in conflict resolution urge parties to distinguish between needs such as safety and protection or even dignity and identity, and programs to secure these needs. Unlimited sovereignty is too absolutist a program to be realistic in today's world.

Certainly, Palestinian institution-building in Jerusalem is a deliberate attempt to push the limits of the current accords between

Israel and the PLO. But it also reflects a geographic reality: Jerusalem is central to Palestinian life (and its importance predates Palestinian nationalism). The exercise of making visiting diplomats travel to Gaza and Jericho to see Palestinians who live in Jerusalem blurs the line between statecraft and children's games.

ISRAEL'S best-case scenario sees Palestinians relinquishing their ambitions in the capital (or becoming pragmatic) and exercising their right to participate in the now all-Jewish city council. It may be time to consider whether this is preferable to cooperation between two autonomous councils. Many blueprints have been drawn up for umbrella structures to make such an arrangement work, and they deserve consideration. Meanwhile, however, the Palestinians need institutions to get themselves organized.

American Prof. Scott A. Bolens, here in Jerusalem to study urban policy in ethnically polarized cities, suggests that Israeli control in the capital can facilitate the development of a more democratically accountable body in Jerusalem (such as local PLO activists seek), parallel to the emergence of a more rigid, authoritarian structure in the autonomous areas.

Whatever form Palestinian participation in city governance will take, cooperation between

Israelis and Palestinians during the interim stage is critical as a confidence-building measure. Encouraging institutions to promote dialogue is a more far-sighted

Is it really in Israel's interest to obstruct Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem?

ed approach than promulgating legislation to close them down.

The Jerusalem Link project offers an intriguing "separate but equal" model: Two women's centers have been established in parallel, one in west Jerusalem and one in east Jerusalem. It is coordinated by local Jewish and Palestinian feminists, with the backing of their counterparts abroad. MK Naomi Chazan, one of its founders, points out the importance of institutions modeled on a cooperative vision of Jerusalem, to make such a vision reality.

Legal scholars such as Ruth Lapidoth of the Hebrew University observe that sovereignty is an evolving concept whose importance is diminishing in a rapidly

changing world order. Functional solutions can be sought if sovereignty is broken down into components: control over education, planning, transportation, provision of services, and the like.

Do we really imagine that we can deny all this to the Palestinians? If we cannot, then institution-building is both inevitable and necessary. Institutions can be founded now, early in the peace process. They have a role to play

in smoothing the difficult transitions ahead.

Jerusalem, which must never again be severed by a physical partition through its heart, is a geographic entity — and much more. Sovereignty is an abstract construct which, with reason and imagination, can be divided. We should not confuse the two.

The writer is head of publications at the Hebrew University's Truman Institute.

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The music goes on

CAPITAL TALK

TEDDY KOLLEK with Amos Kollek

LAST Friday night after dinner I watched the news as usual with my family and then went back to the weekend newspapers. I'm not a TV fan, and aside from the news I watch very few programs. I much prefer reading.

But a few minutes later my wife, Tamar, called me back to the study saying there was a program on with Frank Sinatra, and since Frank is an old friend, I watched and enjoyed every minute of it.

I don't consider myself a great connoisseur of music. My friendship with some of the world's outstanding artists was always based first and foremost on what they could do for Israel or Jerusalem.

Frank is certainly one of the greatest singers of all time and a longstanding loyal supporter of Israel. Our relationship began in 1948 when I was in New York buying and shipping arms to Israel for our War of Independence.

My HQ was on the top floor of a small hotel that no longer exists - Hotel 14, on East 60th Street. On the ground floor was the famous Copacabana nightclub.

Buying arms in the US and smuggling them out of the country had to be done secretly.

Since we were watched by the FBI, we used couriers to transfer money to the docks. One of those couriers was a young nightclub singer from Hoboken who was already making the girls faint in the aisles - Frank Sinatra.

The next time we crossed paths was when he came to Israel in 1966 with Kirk Douglas and Yul Brynner to make *Cast a Giant Shadow*, a film about David "Mickey" Marcus, a hero of the 1948 war and Israel's first general.

At the time I was director-general of the Prime Minister's Office and in charge, among other things, of promoting tourism.

Frank was then a huge star and a tremendous attraction, particularly in a country that was considered dangerous and prone to wars. Flying him over with his band to give concerts in Israel was a very expensive affair.

But when Frank went to Iran to perform, we managed to arrange for him to continue on to Israel. He became very attached to the country, started a youth center in Nazareth in the late 1950s for Arab and Israeli children, and from that point on came to Israel periodically and helped in every way he could. We also became friends.

It was a fringe benefit of my career that through my work, which was often tedious and exhausting, I also met some terrific people. Frank was one of them, always radiating charm and tremendous energy.

I remember one visit to Chicago in the late '60s when he was performing there. I arrived at his concert a bit late. While singing, he noticed me standing in the wings, called me on stage and introduced me to the audience.

Great artists I've met, like Danny Kaye, Arthur Rubinstein, Zubin Mehta, Isaac Stern, Kirk Douglas and Liv Ullmann, were mostly unusually bright and interested in many fields other than their own careers.

In 1993, when I made my ill-fated bid for reelection as mayor of Jerusalem, Frank hosted a fund-raising dinner for me in Los Angeles and invited many of his friends, including Barbra Streisand, Marvin Davis and Gregory Peck.

I remember that gesture with a lot of sentiment. Neither of us was very young, and he had a lot of other obligations, yet there he was, eager to help an old friend.

Last week when I watched him performing full of vigor and electricity at the age of 78, I was truly delighted. I realized that, for Frank, the music will never end.

THE picture is of a mounted policeman standing before a group of protesters, some of whom look as if they are covering.

Distributed by Reuters, it was published throughout the world with the following caption: "Druse protesters duck as Israeli mounted police charge outside the prime minister's office in Jerusalem on Sunday..."

Spotting the picture in his town's paper the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, Alexander Fihn addressed the following to the paper's "letters" section:

"Gentlemen, You have a false and misleading caption beneath the large picture on Page 3A of your December 5 edition.

"The description of an 'Israeli mounted police charge...' (against Druse protesters) is patently incorrect and slanted. Front legs together and both upon the ground is the stance of a standing horse. One charging would have one or both front legs forward and up, lips wide apart, teeth bared, with ears back and down.

"One demonstrator is shown - hand open and extended - tickling the nose of the horse. Hardly the act of a covering pedestrian.

"The rider has a slack right rein and a pulling plow-rein. His foot is relaxed with spur NOT into the flank of the horse. He is NOT charging but is, instead, wheeling a standing horse around to his left.

"All of the people on the ground are staring at something or someone to the rear left of the horse and rider. It is that, perhaps, that the rider is turning to confront.

"For lack of more knowledge, this photograph seems to be portraying a mannerly animal remaining docile in a boisterous situation - an excellent job of crowd control. Your description seems to follow your own agenda rather than the photographic evidence."

Fihn obviously knows something about horses. Now he knows something about truth in captions. The letter wasn't published.

EYE ON THE MEDIA

DAVID BAR-ILLAN

THE CHOSEN 100

In its December 5 issue, *Time* magazine published a list of "The Global 100."

"Amid pervasive cynicism about public life, the world has come to wonder what future leaders might offer," says the introduction. "Herewith a list of rising stars worldwide and their own vision quest."

The list features "leaders of tomorrow" in Europe, North America, Latin America, Africa/Middle East and Asia/Pacific. Each name is accompanied by a promotional biography of 150 words or so.

It is, undeniably, a colorful bunch. It includes Bashar Assad, son of Syrian dictator Hafez Assad; Ali Belhadj, detained leader of the Islamic fundamentalist movement in Algeria, (a group involved in last week's Air France hijacking and the murder of thousands of innocents); Egyptian anti-government Islamic preacher Sheikh Omar Abdel Kafi; former Eritrean People's Liberation Army revolutionary Mohiaddin Shengeb; South African "veteran of multiple arrests" who led his radical followers in chants of "Kill the Boer!" Peter Mokebe; chief of the Palestinian Authority's Preventive Security apparatus Mohammed Dahlan; and two Israeli politicians: Avraham Burg and Tzahi Hanegbi.

Yet in all the 15,000 words *Time* devotes to these 100 future leaders, the word "terrorist" appears only once - to describe Hanegbi's parents. "Both his parents were members of the terrorist Stern Group," says the capsule bio of this "radical politician," who "won a certain notoriety as a rabble rousing student leader," and who was "too ambitious to stay on an extremist fringe."

On the other hand Dahlan, a Fatah Hawk and protégé of Abu Jihad, who reportedly masterminded several ter-

rorist strikes and who now heads an internal-security agency in a dictatorial regime, is described as an avuncular former boy scout: "Reputed nice guys are rarities atop most internal-security agencies. Dahlan is one of them - an affable, even gracious former guerrilla fighter who has headed the Palestinian Authority's version of the FBI in the Gaza Strip since self rule began... [He is] viewed as trustworthy and fair."

The description of the intifada is just as sweet. It is "the stone-throwing youth uprising that ultimately helped persuade Israel to begin a withdrawal from the occupied territories." Amazing how this "youth uprising" managed to kill more than 1000 Arabs and 300 Jews with nothing but stones. Must be because affable guys like Dahlan led it so graciously.

TEL AVIV THE CAPITAL

That most countries refuse to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital is a unique phenomenon. Capitals chosen by recognized governments are usually acknowledged as such, even when the legality of the choice is questionable. When Communist East Germany - in defiance of the Potsdam agreement - designated East Berlin as its capital, the city was immediately recognized as the GDR's capital. Not so Israel's in the case of choice.

The BBC, for instance, habitually refers to Tel Aviv as Israel's capital. Last week, in a quiz show on the German network SAT 1, the question "What is Israel's capital?" was answered "Tel Aviv" and adjudged correct. Sometimes, the verbal acrobatics become farcical. A network correspondent standing in front of the prime minister's office in Jerusalem was introduced as broadcasting from Tel Aviv.

(Israel enjoys another unique distinction. Unlike Judea, Samaria and Gaza,

no disputed territories - from the Sahalin islands to Kashmir, to Northern Ireland, to innumerable other contested lands - are referred to as "occupied territories.")

To some, this Jerusalem business can be quite confusing. In a column-titled "To the art of the matter" in *The Guardian* last month, critic David Newham complained about a painting exhibited in the National Portrait Gallery. It is a painting of "twelve worthies [who] strike stiff poses around an architect's model... [titled] The Supreme Court, Jerusalem, by Paul Benney." Newham does not only dislike the painting, he suspects political chicanery. "The plot thickens," he writes. "Israel has built its new Supreme Court in East Jerusalem, that part of the city which the Palestinians are keen to make their capital. So is this painting a political statement? Quite the reverse, it seems."

"We have been made aware that there are political aspects," says Charles Saumarez Smith, director of the gallery. "But I wish it to be said that the decision to display it was made on artistic rather than political grounds and that it is not intended to have any political resonances."

"So it's an embarrassment then? Well, questions have been asked at a Board of Trustees meeting, it seems. And more than one visitor to the Sirsells has been heard spluttering about the 1993 Oslo Accord - how it prohibits any act that might prejudice the final status of Jerusalem, and so on. How on earth can you concentrate on the nice pictures with all that sort of thing going on around you?"

Think of how difficult it would have been to concentrate on writing the column had Newham known that the building was not only constructed well before the Oslo accords, but that it is located in the western part of Jerusalem.

Tiresome things, these facts. They have a nasty habit of getting in *The Guardian's* way.

David: A model Jewish ruler

A VIEW FROM NOV

MOSHE KOHN

Chronicles 10:13-14; I Samuel 9:2, 10:8, 15:1-33, 21:1-22:19 and 25:3-25.

AS A DISTANT cousin of the 85 martyred kohanim of Nov, and as one who feels sorry for Saul but admires David, I am taking the liberty of joining the discussion over Foreign Minister Peres's "blasphemous" reference to the David/Bathsheba/Uria episode in the Knesset on December 14.

In his response to several motions for the agenda concerning his and Prime Minister Rabin's acceptance of the Nobel Peace Prize together with Yasser Arafat, Peres presented his usual selective Judaism: Judaism, he said, never supported military conquest and never supported ruling over non-Jews.

Two Moledet MKs interjected remarks about Joshua's conquest of the Promised Land, which included rule over at least one autochthonous group, the Gibeonites; David's expansion of Jewish dominion, through a series of conquests that started as defensive wars, till it embraced the proverbial "from the great River Euphrates to the river of Egypt" and a number of non-Jewish tribes and nations; and the 1948 Independence War, which also began as a defensive war and left Israel with more territory than the UN partition proposal had provided for and with several hundred thousand non-Jewish residents.

With his characteristic selectivity, which typifies professing liberals, Peres retorted: "I recognize the Torah of Moses. Our Teacher and not the Torah of David Our Father... Not everything that King David did, on the ground or on the rooftops, is acceptable to Judaism or to me" (*Ha'aretz*, December 15).

The next day, at a gathering of Foreign Ministry employees to toast him on getting the Nobel

Prize, Peres said that the two Moledet MKs and similar interjectors were only diminishing from David's greatness. He added: "If they say that King David wished to dominate other people, that is a deviation from the spirit of the Tanach and from King David's nature" (*Ma'ariv*, December 16).

I haven't the slightest idea which Tanach and David Peres was talking about.

But except for the crude manner in which he said it, Peres said nothing about the David-Bathsheba episode that the Tanach itself (see II Samuel 11-12 and I Kings 15:5) and the talmudic Sages don't say.

David's unquestioning defenders in the matter have cited the Talmudic assertion that he didn't really sin: Uriah had rebelled against him, thereby incurring the death penalty; and in his time, all men going into battle first gave their wives a provisional divorce, so that in the event that they were slain but their wives would not remain unmarried *agunot* rather than being declared marriageable widows.

Elsewhere, the Talmud acknowledges that David sinned, and says it came about because he presumptuously challenged God to try him.

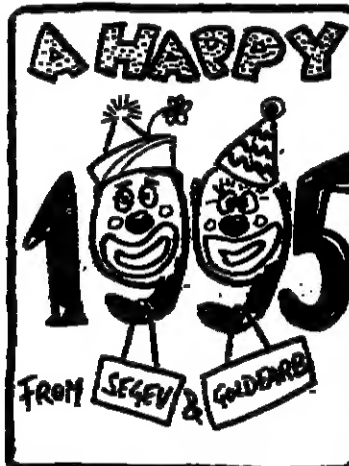
On the basis of this, Rabbi Yehuda teaches in Rav's name: Never put yourself in front of temptation, for you will fail just as David failed.

(See *Shabbat* 56a, *Sanhedrin* 107a, *Yerushalmi Berachot* 9:5, *Midrash Tehillim* 18:28).

Be that as it may, David possessed those leadership qualities the lack of which was the cause of Saul's downfall.

He possessed those qualities to such a degree that, notwithstanding his shortcomings, the Tanach and the Talmudic Sages "elected" David as the model Jewish ruler, the founder of the dynasty that is to reign in the Messianic Era, and the progenitor of Messiah himself.

SRULIK



A revelation of divine law and love

SHABBAT SHALOM

SHLOMO RISKIN

IN this week's portion, Va'era, Moses apparently attains an understanding of God which had never been revealed to the patriarchs.

This deeper revelation is certainly understandable, since the children of Israel are entering a new stage in history: the God of the Patriarchs must reveal more of Himself in order to guide Moses.

God speaks to Moses, and through Moses, to us as well. Many of our present-day problems could better be solved if we would only listen more clearly to what God was saying to Moses nearly 4,000 years ago.

Undoubtedly, the religious conflict in Israel - between Jew and Jew - is one of the thorniest challenges facing our society. After all, Jews who come home to Israel, each have a claim on the direction society ought to take. Is it any wonder that confrontations between observant and non-observant often erupt into explosions?

On the one hand, there are those for whom the sanctity of our homeland is so pregnant with potential and therefore so sensitive to transgression, that they would use almost any means to strengthen a religiously observant Israeli society, which they believe would ensure its stability.

On the other hand, there are those who are anxious to create a modern state in the mold of western culture based on individual freedom. If they were asked what they believe to be the goals of religious Jewry, they would answer: "Laws - laws against importing nonkosher meat, laws against Friday night cinema, laws against Saturday public transportation, laws which limit our rights and impinge on our life style."

In this week's portion God makes a distinction between the name of *El Shaddai* that He revealed to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and the four-letter name of Yod Kay Vuv Kay (J-HVH) that God makes known to Moses.

What is the difference between these two names? Even if we're not all kabbalists able to understand the secret meanings of the names of God, the Torah itself gives us the key by contrasting the patriarchs' comprehension of the Divine with that of Moses. Since Abraham, Isaac and Jacob appear exclusively in the Book of Genesis, while Moses begins his journey in the Book of Exodus, it follows that understanding the difference between these two

biblical books will serve as a guide to understanding the difference between the two names or descriptions of God.

Genesis opens with the creation of the world, and goes on to record the creation of nations in general and the nation of Israel, with its unique destiny, in particular.

Creation is the central motif of the Book of Genesis. *El Shaddai* is the God of power, judgment, energy, with "El" literally meaning might and "Shaddai" meaning force. Thus when God speaks of having made Himself known to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob through *El-Shaddai*, we are being told that God in this stage of history is power, strength, might - the God who creates.

The Book of Exodus takes us to the next stage of history - the framework of law and commandments, given in the context of the exodus from Egypt.

GOD'S PLANNED revelation of the Torah at Sinai requires that the people understand that the commandments do not emanate from a God of power and judgment (*El Shaddai*), but rather

from the God of love and concern (J-HVH).

Our Sages have always spoken of J-HVH as a God of love, the dimension whereby the Divine compassion softens the Divine power.

By linking law and love, the Torah is teaching that in order for the people to keep and honor the commandments, they must know that they emanate from One who truly loves and cares for them, the depth of this love defying all logic.

The Exodus from Egypt is a profound expression of such love. God understands that he can only make such stringent demands of His people after He has demonstrated His unconditional love; thus, only after He has taken the Jews out of Egypt does He give them the Torah.

If we look at the Ten Commandments, the opening words establish the principle that love must precede law: "I am God your Lord who took you out of Egypt from out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me." (Exodus 20:2-3)

Note that the decalogue does not open with the possibly more expected introduction, "I am the Lord your God, who created the heavens and the earth. You shall have no other..."

Unquestionably, the creation of the world is a greater tribute to Divine Power than the exodus. Nevertheless, God precedes His law not with the primary example of His might, but rather with the primary example of His love.

Torah-true Judaism will become the norm for Israeli society only when it becomes identified with love and concern, with relieving oppression and enhancing freedom. This is the message of our God of love and law.

Shabbat Shalom
Rabbi Riskin, dean of the Ohr Torah institutions, is chief rabbi of Efrat.

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מקראות המגיל

He ushered Israel to the White House

Abraham Feinberg, friend of US presidents, helped the fledgling state enter the greatest corridor of power. Sue Fishkoff reports

IN the summer of 1949, Abraham Feinberg found himself sitting in the White House, negotiating with president Harry Truman over the first loan package for Israel.

President Chaim Weizmann was coming to Washington, and Truman knew he wanted US aid for the fledgling state.

"Truman asked me, 'How much do you think Weizmann will ask for?'" recalled Feinberg, now 86 and chairman of the board of the Central Bortling Company, local distributors of Coca-Cola.

"I had no idea, so I simply picked a figure out of the air and said '\$250 million.' Truman said: 'I'll never get that through Congress.' So I said, 'How much could you get?' And he said, 'I could guarantee him a \$100 million loan.' So I said, 'Well, that's a good starting point.'"

Feinberg, who had forged a friendship with Truman several years earlier, while the latter was still vice president under Franklin Roosevelt, flew to Israel.

"During the flight back to Washington, Weizmann asked Feinberg how much money he should request."

"I told him, 'If I were you,

whatever Truman says, I'd accept,'" Feinberg related. "Get your foot in the door, and we'll make the sum grow afterwards."

That's just what happened. Truman promised to push the \$100 million request through Congress, the first of many loan packages.

Feinberg recalled that story while sitting in his suite at the Tel Aviv Hilton recently, after donating \$1 million to the Harry S. Truman presidential library in Independence, Missouri.

In more than 50 years of service to Israel and the prestate Zionist movement, including 17 years as chairman of Israel Bonds, which he helped found in 1950, Feinberg has used his close relations with a series of American presidents to forge access routes to the White House and Congress for successive Israeli leaders. Feinberg, however, plays down the connection.

Despite his largesse and political influence, Feinberg never gave interviews, and his story remains largely unknown.

FEINBERG WAS a young man working in the hosiery business and raising money for the United



Feinberg: Truman saw in Israel a reflection of his own life; both succeeded through persistence and dedication. (Israel Sun)

Palestine Appeal in his hometown of Mount Vernon, New York, when in 1933 Hitler came to power in Germany. That event, he said, persuaded him to "get involved in a deliberate attempt to worm my way into the national political apparatus" in order to help create a more favorable attitude towards Zionism.

In 1945, just before FDR's death, Feinberg asked to be introduced to vice president Truman at a cocktail party in New York City. The two hunted for a while, and Feinberg asked Truman how he liked to be addressed. "He said, 'Call me Senator, I liked that job best,'" Feinberg related. "From that meeting, we became close friends."

Four months later FDR was dead, Truman was president and Feinberg had his foot firmly in the door to the Oval Office. He soon became the go-between for Zionist emissaries in the US, "the Ben-Gurion crowd," which was struggling to get someone who did not hold any official position, but who did know what was going on in the White House.

Throughout the Truman presidency, Feinberg again and again pressed Israel's case. "What attracted me to Truman was his common sense," Feinberg said. "He abhorred fakery, anything manufactured. He was a straight-arrow fellow."

Truman was always a friend to Israel, Feinberg said, despite media charges, especially early in his presidency, that he was antisemitic. "That was a false impression blown out of all proportion by the press, who attacked Truman for every reason they could," Feinberg charged, recalling that Truman lost both houses of Congress to the Republicans in the 1948 elections, and had an approval rating lower than that of Bill Clinton.

"I think Truman saw in Israel a

microcosm of his own life," Feinberg mused. "Both had humble beginnings, and both succeeded through persistence and dedication."

"He was 'for us,' let me put it that way," Feinberg concluded, adding that Truman was constantly thwarted in his attempts to provide further aid or arms to Israel by a hostile Congress and anti-Israeli elements in his own State Department, headed by a "stiff-necked" secretary of state, Dean Acheson.

Truman also disliked being pressured. Feinberg recalled walking into the Oval Office one day right after the president met Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, head of the newly organized American Zionist Emergency Council.

"Truman was red in the face, and I asked whether anything was wrong. He said, 'Yes, damn it, the presidency is something to be respected, and that clown had the nerve to shake his finger in front of me. He was insulting the office of the president, not me personally. I told him he'd never be welcome here again.' And Silver could never get in to see Truman after that."

Despite their close friendship, Feinberg played down his influence on Truman's political decisions. "That was overblown," he insisted. "Whenever someone has access to a president, and others see the president acting in that person's interest, people assume it's because of that person's influence. It's not always true."

Truman supported Israel because of his own convictions, Feinberg said.

In 1960, soon after the election of John Kennedy, Feinberg arranged a historic meeting between the young president and prime minister David Ben-Gurion. Kennedy planned to meet Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev in Vienna, and Ben-Gurion was eager to speak with the US president beforehand. Unfortunately, Kennedy was very aware of Ben-Gurion's antipathy towards him, and the Israeli was leery of requesting a meeting directly, in case the American should refuse.

So Feinberg contacted Kennedy, who planned to stay at the Waldorf Hotel in New York City the night before his flight to Vienna for the meeting with Khrushchev.

"I told him that, by coincidence, Ben-Gurion was going to be in the same hotel that very night.... It's going to be very awkward, I told Kennedy, if you don't offer to see him."

Kennedy had, Feinberg said, "an inkling" as to Feinberg's real intentions, but agreed to the meeting.

Kennedy asked if I wanted to sit in on the meeting, and I said, 'Are you kidding? Do you want to lose a million votes? There are a million Jews in this country who think they created the State of Israel. If they're not at this meeting and I am, you'll lose their votes!'"

Ben-Gurion and Kennedy met privately that night for the first time. B-G conveyed his government's fears of Soviet intentions in the Middle East, advice that Feinberg said Kennedy took seriously.

In those years, he pointed out, meetings between Israeli and American leaders took a great deal of maneuvering. The Israelis did not have easy access to the White House.

IT IS because of his admiration for Truman that Feinberg broke his ban on interviews and agreed to speak about his million-dollar gift to the presidential library this fall. The money will be used in part to expand the library into a research institute focusing on the Truman presidency.

This latest gift continues Feinberg's long philanthropic relationship with institutions of higher learning, including the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, where he and his family established the Feinberg Graduate School and where he served as chairman of the board of governors from 1972 to 1977.

He also helped found Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, as America's first Jewish-sponsored, nonsectarian university.

Feinberg has many mementos of his long career serving Israel and the Jewish people. His most cherished souvenir is one of the few original copies of the US government's de-facto recognition of the new State of Israel, hastily typed just minutes after Ben-Gurion's declaration of the state.

The document, which hangs in Feinberg's home, shows where Truman crossed out the words "the Jewish state" and wrote "the State of Israel."

"It's a remarkable document, coming down just 10 minutes after the state was declared," Feinberg said. "And then, for it to be in error!"

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Models of Cooperation

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Teddy Kollek's drugstore escapade

FORMER Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek, a close friend of Abraham Feinberg for many years, describes his contribution to the Zionist cause as "outstanding."

Kollek points to Feinberg's personal relationship with US president Harry Truman as a key element in building bridges to the American administration. "He created a relationship

with the White House and with the Democrats at a time when we needed it," Kollek says. "We didn't have AIPAC [the Jewish lobby in Washington] or any other such organization. He filled that role himself, and he did it alone."

Feinberg recalls that, the week after the state was proclaimed, Kollek and 31 other young men were sworn into the nascent Israeli armed forces under a big elm tree on his back lawn in Mount Vernon.

Feinberg's son built a ham radio set in the house, which Ya'acov Dori, Hagana military head and later first commander-in-chief of the IDF, used to speak to his troops.

In those days, the Hagana's US headquarters were in a New York City hotel, on top of the famed Copacabana nightclub. The phones in the hotel were all tapped, Feinberg says, so Hagana operatives would use pay phones in the street.

One night at about 11:30, Kollek received some key information he wanted to relay to Hagana offices on the West Coast. He went to a drugstore on the corner, entered the phone booth, shut the glass door and was soon deeply engaged in conversation.

The drugstore owner didn't notice Kollek sitting there, and locked up the store for the night, with the young Zionist emissary still inside.

"The next morning I asked him, 'What the hell did you do in there?'" Feinberg recalls. "He said, 'Well, they had a soda fountain.' Now, Teddy had a prodigious appetite. He said, 'I fixed myself an ice-cream soda and a couple of sandwiches.'"

After satisfying his hunger, Kollek snuck out through an unlocked basement door, moving carefully to avoid setting off the store's alarm.

"We still talk about that night," Feinberg chuckles. S.F.

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مكتبة النخيل

The merry-go-round comes full circle

THE WEEK THAT WAS
MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE cabinet merry-go-round was in full swing all week, spreading giddiness all round. As ministerial horses bounced up and down before his eyes, Gonen Segev, the cause of it all, remained placidly on the sidelines.

The leader of the two-strong Y'ud splinter had already been assured of the Energy portfolio last week by his friend Shimon Sheves, the prime minister's bureau chief.

When Rabin had convened his cabinet in Tel Aviv last Friday to tell the ministers of the "little job" he had found for Segev - Energy - a certain lack of enthusiasm was noted from Police and Energy Minister Moshe Shahal.

On Saturday the radio informed enthralled voters across the land that Rabin was going to appoint Segev, er, economic planning minister.

Why economic planning? Not because this sector of the nation's business needs new blood, a dynamic mind, a visionary approach. But because Shahal refused to be parted from Energy.

By Sunday horses were being switched in mid whirl - Segev would get Tourism ... no; make that Infrastructure.

Infrawhat? Simple really; we'll slice little bits off lots of other ministries and stick them all together in a new portfolio.

The funny noise was the sudden stiffening of backbones across the cabinet - a hitherto undiscovered part of ministerial anatomy. No, no, and no way was anyone going to have bits of their ministries redistributed.

The idea of Infrastructure for Segev had surfaced briefly only as a possible solution to the Shahal factor - Sheves left the room to sound Segev out on the phone. Segev categorically declined.

And so the merry-go-round came full circle back to the beginning. Energy.

Seves made it clear that only Energy would do. He now set about persuading Rabin to woo Shahal with a new steed ... Information Coordination.

Terrible name, but a nice horse.

"In six months' time, everyone will wonder how the state ever managed without an information ministry," Shahal gushed as hoots of derision began to emerge from all quarters.

Soon he found he had become the Jew who not only ate the rotten fish, but was being driven out of town. Not only had he given up his coveted Energy, but was being sold a Police and Information monster with its sinister Orwellian overtones of propaganda commissar.

Picture of the week was a beaming Shahal being congratulated by his colleagues in Tuesday's newspapers. Before the ink was dry, a crestfallen but nimble Shahal was resigning from a non-existent information ministry.

NOT-SO-LITTLE WOMEN

The "old-you-sos" have been lying in wait since Shas and Meretz got into bed together to form the Histadrut Ram list.

Sooner or later Shas was bound to raise the Na'amat stone and find all sorts of anathemas crawling underneath - abortion support, family planning, "civil marriage" contracts and ... eek horror! ... activities to advance women and equalize their rights.

So, this week the haredi representative in the Histadrut's executive, Yehuda Avidan, demanded that Na'amat funds be cut off.

The women's movement had petitioned the High Court after the Jerusalem Municipality refused to appoint two (Orthodox) women to the city's religious council.

Avidan pounced and argued that Na'amat was involved in political activity and this should not be financed by the Histadrut.

There were sneers all around; even Ramon brushed it aside. By definition, Na'amat is a political movement whose sole job is to promote women's issues.

Round one for the women. Lesson one in feminism for Shas. But Na'amat leaders were privately heaving sighs of relief that Shas is so reactionary.

"Lucky for us its leaders believe women's place is in the kitchen. Otherwise they might try to foist a woman from their



Gonen Segev: Now he has a lot of Energy to work with.

ONCE UPON A TIME
Once upon a time, there were three wonder boys: Haim Ramon, Yossi Beilin and Avrum Burg - young Knesset doves, the white hope of Labor's future, the heirs to the throne. And it was whispered they had a master plan for taking over the kingdom: Ramon would be prime minister, Beilin foreign minister and Burg would storm the ramparts of the Jewish Agency.

Ramon has already outflanked the Histadrut, cracking Labor's administrative and financial spine, positioning himself one hill away from the pinnacle. Beilin is hovering on the edge of the cabinet merry-go-round, ready to be hauled aboard. And lo, Burg announced this week he was contending for the chair of the Jewish Agency.

So does the master plan exist? Nonsense, says Burg. He denied not only that he is part of such a scheme, but also that his bid is a sour-grapes reaction for not being called to the carousel himself.

He came out strongly against Beilin, who has said the Jewish Agency should shut up shop altogether. Burg even delicately criticized Ramon's "style" in the Histadrut revolution.

Burg - pleading vegetarianism - declined comment on the religious institutions' battle to ban nonkosher meat from Israel. However, as a religious man, Burg blasted the religious and haredi wars against the Supreme Court and human liberties. He was particularly incensed by violent haredi actions to close down Jerusalem streets.

"Blasphemy, profanity and the desecration of the name of God," he thundered. "They have long since turned their backs on dialogue with the Israeli public and have gone to war ... This is not my Judaism."

Burg set an example to upwardly mobile politicians on how to be on time - not only un-Israeli but impossible in Tel Aviv's Sunday rush hour with traffic jammed solid at city entrances.

Yekke Burg nonetheless beat most reporters to Beit Sokolov for his news conference by hopping on one of his aides' motor scooters and weaving through the clogged-up vehicles.

Good practice for the merry-go-round.

IN A SHEINKIN CAFE
Sheinkin's Friday cafe yuppies clicked their tongues as they read of more and more streets being closed down by Jerusalem haredim - "over the weekend too, when you need them most."

They tut-tutted over secular residents pleading for police protection from haredi violence and chuckled over a suggestion to offer Jerusalem secular political asylum in Tel Aviv.

"Why don't they come here anyway? All the streets are open," one espresso drinker asked. "Not much point," grumbled a hafuch man. "We can't move anywhere for traffic jams."

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Will Burg raise Cain or raise funds?

Avrum Burg wants to head the Jewish Agency: a) to help Diaspora Jewry, b) to save his political skin, c) for power.
Allison Kaplan Sommer reports

THE way Avrum Burg sees it, the Jewish Agency is like a patient suffering from anemia. Just his offer to supply the organization with his fresh, 30-something blood should be enough to put color in its cheeks and spring in its step.

But why would Burg, who officially announced his candidacy for chairmanship of the organization this week, want to open his veins for the Jewish Agency/World Zionist Organization?

"Are you going to ask me why I'm committing this act of political suicide?" Burg asks in his Knesset office, repeating the question he has heard most from reporters over the past week.

Wearing his trademark casual clothes and a swirl-design knitted kippa, he was in typical relaxed Burg posture, leaning back on his chair, feet up on his coffee table.

The question is logical. The chairmanship of the Jewish Agency has never been known as a stepping-stone to political glory, and not many politicians of Burg's generation would be attracted to it. The job has been viewed as something of a Miami Beach for politicians in the sunset of their careers, a place to translate past glories into fund-raising ability.

But Burg says that his desire for the job should come as no surprise to those who know him well. "All through my political career, I have said there are two jobs I am interested in. One is chairmanship of the Jewish Agency, and the second is the Ministry of Education."

His stated reason for seeking the post is simple: "I want to be there. It is a very emotional decision, very unlike most of my cold-minded political decisions."

More cold-minded political observers would add that the move would not be entirely self-sacrifice. The chairmanship is a secure and prestigious post which Burg would have reasonable chances of retaining after the 1996 elections, even if the Likud were to be victorious. It is also a high-paying job and involves control of a substantial budget.

And Burg's current political position is far from ideal. Though he finished third in the Labor Party 1992 primaries, he did not get his coveted Education Ministry or any other cabinet post. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has shown little affection for Burg, who is a member of the dovish Kfar Hayarok faction.

Burg naturally stresses his more spiritual motivations for wanting to head the agency, saying that Israel-Diaspora relations would represent a new challenge after the years he has devoted to the cause of peace.

"I'm saying to myself: Avrum,

the fight on the peace issue is over.... We have crossed the bridge. Now we are at the other side, we are negotiating with the enemy.... And I knew that once somebody removed the peace cover off the Pandora's box, all of the things we postponed for a better tomorrow will come out: ... social and economic gaps, religious tensions, and the question of our generation - what the heck will my Jewish identity be in an era without an external enemy?"

Burg says he believes that the Jewish world is at a crossroads, with the majority of world Jewry, living for the first time under democratic rule, with assimilation, not oppression, as its primary threat. Israel, he points out, is not immune to the phenomenon of assimilation in the form of "Americanization-Westernization-MTVization-Levi Jeansization."

He feels he is uniquely qualified to build the necessary bridges between Israel and Diaspora Jewry. "How many people do we have who are capable of going to an Orthodox shul, to a conservative temple, to a college campus, to a summer camp and being able to communicate ... at eye level? I believe that I am."

Few agency insiders doubt that Burg could easily win a charisma contest against his rival, Yehiel Leket, an experienced agency functionary and veteran of the World Labor Zionist movement.

Leket currently serves as the head of the Youth Aliya department and acting agency chairman. He has been filling in for chairman Simcha Diniz, who took a leave of absence under the shadow of allegations that he used agency funds for personal expenses.

"Once Leket got into power, he showed that he could be a decision maker," said one official. "He does a very good job operationally. I was surprised by his ability and level of team play."

The official, like many of his colleagues, favors Leket. He said that while Burg is personable, his lack of managerial experience is worrisome. He is concerned that Burg "could be a chairman with great vision and great press, but the organization would be in chaos. That's not what I want for the agency."

Neither Burg nor Leket is the dream candidate of Diaspora fund-raisers on the agency's Board of Governors, the first hoop that the prospective candidates must jump through. Since Diniz stepped down, they have made it clear that they would prefer a chairman with fund-raising ability (translation: charisma) but in the more traditional elder-statesman mold. The question is whether they will favor a charm-



Burg: What the heck will my Jewish identity be in an era without an external enemy?

ing, articulate but relatively untested Burg, or Leket, whom they perceive as competent but colorless.

At the next step - the Labor Party Central Committee elections - Burg may have the edge, being a favorite of Peres, who controls a majority of the committee. Rabin is said to favor Leket, though it is unclear how actively he will support him.

Sources in the pro-Leket camp say they may play on the unhappiness of committee members with the drastic reforms Haim Ramon is undertaking in the Histadrut. Even Peres loyalists on the committee may desire to foil Burg to prevent the young guard from grabbing yet another key post and dismantling yet another Labor Party stronghold.

Aware of these political concerns, Burg refrains from criticizing the Jewish Agency as harshly as Ramon did the Histadrut during his campaign, or implying that Yehiel Leket is a less-than-competent chairman. "I understand people who say that the current institution has same bad

image as the Histadrut had - but I'm very careful. Yehiel Leket is not Haberfeld and I'm not Ramon.... Hilk [Leket] has done a good job under the circumstances. But the question is whether at this crucial time we need more of the same right now. As I see it, more of the same is stagnation."

He distinguishes himself from Ramon in that "I was not brought up to believe, and I do not believe, in construction out of destruction."

This is similar to the distinction he makes between himself and Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin. Beilin has grabbed headlines over the past several months with repeated calls to dismantle the Jewish Agency.

"I have an argument with Yossi Beilin," says Burg. "When he started launching his campaign of saying 'Let's close down the magbif' [Diaspora fund-raising federations], I said: 'Yossi, you cannot cut off a Jew who wants to be connected to Israel this way. It doesn't matter what his motivation is in giving, whether

or it's guilt feelings, because he's used to it, because he wants Israel to be there just in case. I don't know why, I don't care why. You are not allowed to cut off his pipeline."

"So, on one side are people who are saying more of the same and on the other is Yossi Beilin who is saying 'death now.' I say neither the first nor the second. What we need is a new spirit and a new direction."

Among the most cynical commentaries on Burg's candidacy was that in Wednesday's *Globe* business daily. Columnist Matti Golan described the candidacy as little more than a power grab cloaked in self-righteousness.

"What could a young and healthy guy like Avrum Burg be looking for in a geriatric institution we call the Jewish Agency? Five-star travel, a chauffeur, car and expense account, rubbing elbows with the rich and famous?" Golan wrote sarcastically in a column called "Avrum the Contributor." "No, no, of course not, really. Of course, it's education. Deepening of Jewish education in the Diaspora. Increasing aliyah from the Western countries. Making a contribution."

Golan is not alone in his view of the agency as a corrupt slush-fund and frequent-flier dispenser for politicians. It is this image, Burg says, that is one of the first things he would change if elected.

Much as he speaks of "new goals" and "new ideas" for the agency, trying to pin Burg down on specific proposals is difficult. After being pressed, he offered a single concrete proposal of a change he would make if elected. Like Beilin, he chafes at the stereotypical Diaspora Jew as giver and Israeli as recipient. But he said his solution to this would not be to get rid of the agency, but for Israelis to contribute as equal partners.

"Instead of closing down a good thing over there, why not introduce it to our life? Why shouldn't we have an Israeli 'federation'? Is it logical that British Jewry or French Jewry or South African Jewry ... should raise more money than the entire Israeli society? There's no reason in the world it should be this way."

Providing a culture of giving in Israel, he says enthusiastically, could work wonders. "Can you imagine what it could do for Israeli society? And can you imagine what it would do for the relationship between us and the givers overseas?"

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The major (and very,

THE peace process, with its successes and problems, was the top news story for the second consecutive year in 1994, according to a poll of the world's news media by the Associated Press.

The year brought limited Palestinian autonomy, Yasser Arafat's return to Gaza and the West Bank, and a shared Nobel Peace Prize for Arafat, Prime Minister Rabin, and Foreign Minister Peres. But it also brought terrorist attacks as internal Palestinian divisions erupted in violence.

Newspapers, news agencies and radio and television stations outside the US were asked to list the top 10 news stories of the year. The AP conducted a separate poll of US media.

Voting was based on 10 points (for a first-place vote) to one point (for a 10th-place selection). With 111 responses from 42 countries, the top 10 news stories were as follows (vote totals are indicated and, in parentheses, first-place votes):

1. The Middle East peace process, 773 points (25).
2. Rwanda's ethnic massacres and refugee crisis, 684 (21). The violence left more than 500,000 people

dead and led to a massive flow of refugees to neighboring countries.

3. South Africa's elections, 667 (18). Nelson Mandela became the country's first black president.

4. Bosnia's civil war, 607 (13). World leaders appear powerless to halt the latest escalation in the war.

5. The US congressional elections, 362 (5). The voting was won by opposition Republicans, who now control both Houses of Congress.

6. North Korea's nuclear crisis and the death of Kim Il Sung, 298 (7). Kim, who had ruled the country with an iron fist since 1948, died in July. A crisis over the country's nuclear program resulted in an agreement between Washington and Pyongyang.

7. The Estonian ferry disaster, 262 (5). The disaster killed more than 900 people.

8. The US intervention in Haiti, 236 (4). The move brought President Jean-Bertrand Aristide back to power.

9. Northern Ireland peace prospects, 221. The improved prospects for peace provided unexpected hope for an end to the decades-long cycle of violence.

10. Italy's elections, 195. The elections ousted scandal-plagued parties and brought Silvio Berlusconi to power.

The second 10 stories, with their point totals:

11. The GATT world trade agreement, 174.

12. The Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Indonesia, 170.

13. Violence blamed on Islamic fundamentalism in Algeria and elsewhere, 142.

14. The US and Cuba agreeing to end the boat exodus of refugees, 129.

15. The marital troubles of Prince Charles and Princess Diana, 120.

16. Expansion of the European Union, 113.

17. India's plague, 103.

18. Freelance terrorist Carlos the Jackal's arrest by France, 100.

19. Iraq threatens Kuwait, then recognizes its borders, 98.

20. Turmoil in Russia and other former Soviet republics, 95.

In addition, these stories were named on at least eight ballots: the UN giving up on peacekeeping in Somalia; Yemen's civil war; Mexico shaken by the Chiapas rebellion and political assassinations.



20,000 Rwandan children, growing up in a culture of crisis, wait for water in a refugee camp in Zaire. (AP)



Caught in a crossfire of national interests, Vadik Timofeyev, 9, crouches in his bombed-out home in Grozny, Chechnya. (AP)



Terror ripped through the heart and soul of Tel Aviv when Dizengoff Street's No. 5 bus was attacked. (Israel Sun)



Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley perform on stage. (AP)



Downed US pilot Bobby Hall is North Korean booty. (AP)



The UN arrives too late to save Nermin Divovic, 7, from Sarajevo's savagery. (AP)



D-Day deja vu: Rollie Duff marches through St. Mere Eglise for the second time in his life. (AP)



After being away for 27 years, Yasser Arafat arrives on Palestinian shoulders to assume the throne of Gaza. (AP)

مكازين الاحمدي

... (and very minor) stories of 1994

nations; the NATO Partnership for Peace program; the continuing spread of AIDS; the Los Angeles earthquake; the US decision to end the trade embargo against Vietnam; the Swiss cult that was wiped out by murder and suicide; and right-wing nationalism in Europe.

THEN THERE were the stories that had no hope of making the top-10 list.

There was the invention of the condom that plays Beethoven, the guard dog that was stolen, and the cat that dialed long distance.

In Italy, a physics student announced plans to patent a prophylactic that plays classical music if it tears. "Ode to Joy," no doubt.

Animals, as ever, added grist to the weirdness mill.

Traffic in downtown Tokyo skidded to a halt when squid races attracted large crowds of office workers. The winner took home the speediest squid.

An Australian Siamese cat built up a large telephone bill by knocking the receiver off its cradle and stepping on the redial button.

A hapless Dutchman, spent

more than \$1,000 on a police-trained guard dog - only to have it stolen two days later.

A scientist at a DNA conference in Canberra said that chimpanzees and gorillas are genetically so similar to humans that they should be reclassified as different types of human beings. "In a sense, you could say that we are, indeed, monkeys' uncles," he said.

An okapi in the Copenhagen Zoo died from stress triggered by the sound of opera singers rehearsing at a nearby park. When performers began singing Richard Wagner's "Tannhauser," the okapi "started hyperventilating, went into shock and collapsed."

For fans of the macabre, the US weighed in with its usual flourish.

In Florida, two separate sets of German tourists spent the night in hotels with a (different) corpse under their bed. One group complained about the smell; the other apparently didn't notice.

Elsewhere, some people were spectacularly unlucky.

An Australian farm hand was crippled when a lamb knocked over a rifle and shot her.

In Hengelo, Holland, a father

caught shoplifting diapers for his baby raced from a supermarket. Unfortunately, he left the baby behind in a stroller. Soon afterwards, the baby and the mother were reunited at the store, and the father sheepishly turned himself in to police.

In Spain, an 82-year-old woman, quietly playing cards in her home with friends, was gored to death by a bull. It escaped from the local bullring and crashed through the woman's front door.

But at the other extreme, 1994 also had its share of good luck.

In London, a man sentenced to life imprisonment for a double murder won a retrial because some jury members used a ouija board to consult the spirit of one of his alleged victims.

A Spanish tourist had a wallet returned years after losing it in Scotland's Loch Ness. It was found by an expedition looking for the loch's monster.

But the toast of the year must surely go to the 60-year-old Dutchman who had his false teeth returned after losing them overboard in the North Sea. An Amsterdam angler found them three months later - in the belly of a codfish.



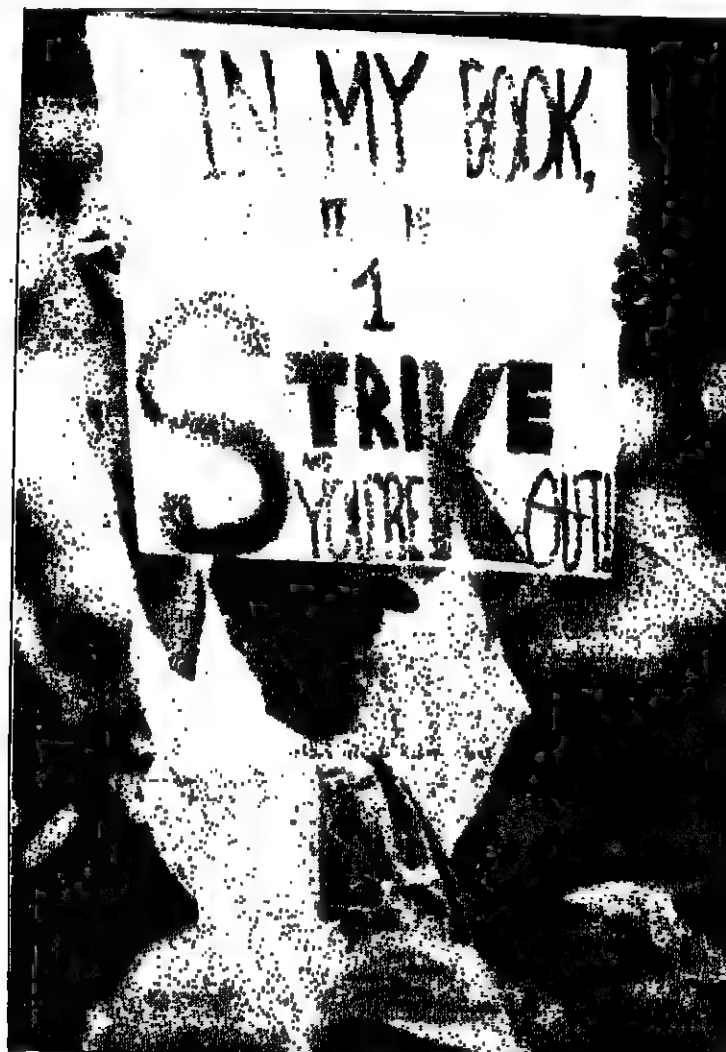
They look like three gents chatting under the midday sun, but they're discussing the minutiae of peace.

(A. Jerozolimski)



It wasn't The Big One, but this California earthquake did its damage.

(Reuters)



America's ongoing baseball strike is millionaires battling billionnaires over the money of kids.

(AP)



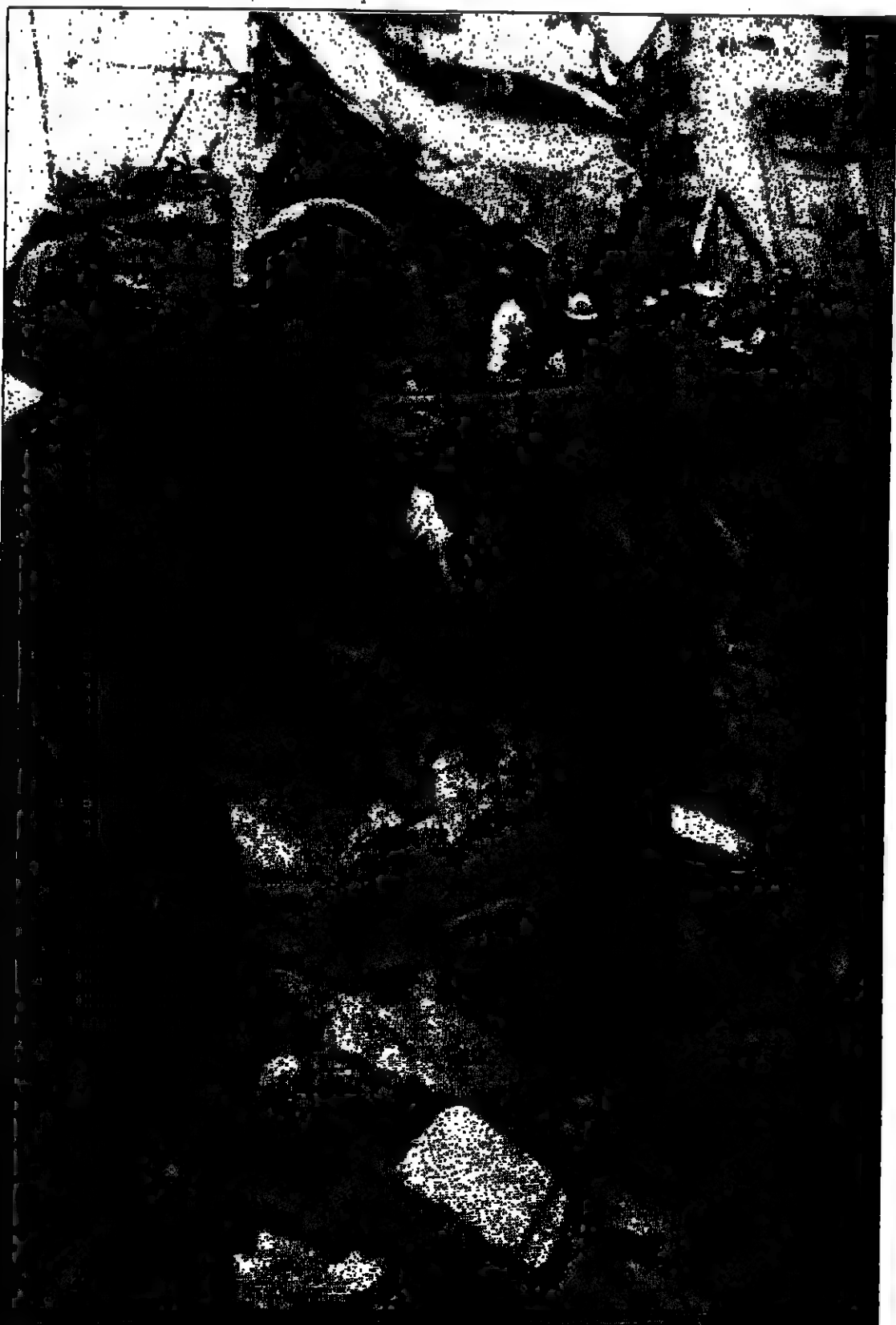
George Foreman may be grandfatherly, but he's the world's boxing champion.

(AP)



Say it ain't so, O.J.

(AP)



The '90s will never be confused with the '60s, but during the Woodstock revival the sexiest decade came back to life.

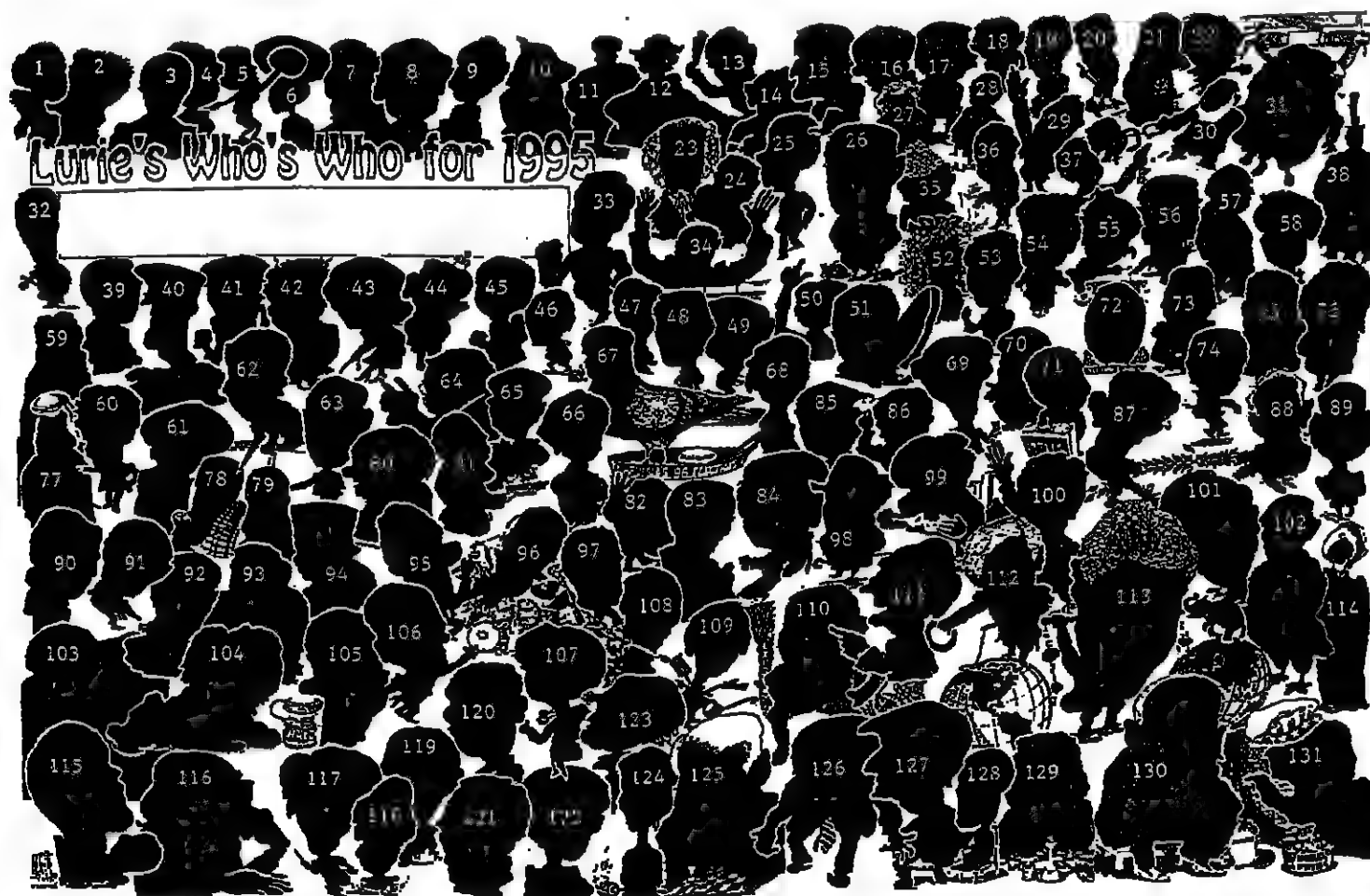
(AP)

The Diaspora was tied to Israel's fate when terrorists attacked Buenos Aires's Jews.

(AP)

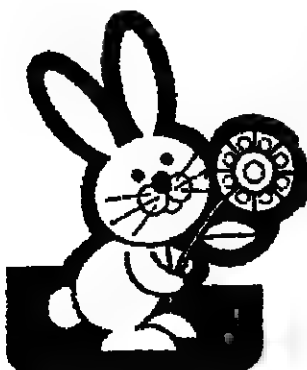


Ranan Lurie gazes into his crystal ball and chooses the people he thinks will most influence our lives in 1995. But who are his "Who's Who?" There are 131 faces to put names to. The answers will appear in Tuesday's 'The Jerusalem Post.'



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36	80	124
37	81	125
38	82	126
39	83	127
40	84	128
41	85	129
42	86	130
43	87	131
44	88	GOOD LUCK!

CALLING ALL HANDICRAFTERS!



The Jerusalem Post Pessah Handicrafts Fair will take place on Tuesday, April 18, at the Metro-West Sports Center in Ra'anana.

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מכירת האוכל

The glory of Zen: At home with Vietnam's crazy monk

TRAVEL

DANIEL ZIV

VIEN Thuc took me excitedly by the hand the moment I stepped through the front gate of his pagoda in Dalat, Vietnam. His hooded face remained a mystery as he pulled me through the dim corridors connecting the rooms in which he painted and studied. We arrived at a large chamber, his warm hand still grasping mine in the cool, damp darkness.

He reached for the lights and suddenly the showroom was illuminated, as was Vien Thuc's childlike face. We stood surrounded by hundreds of paintings, some lining the walls, most stacked neatly on the floor.

"They're all mine. I love to paint and I paint thousands of pictures. Big ones, smaller ones... most of them, as you can see, I decorate with Zen poems. Many foreigners tell me they are beautiful. Do you think they're beautiful?"

Not waiting for an answer, the monk continued. "Where are you from? Did somebody tell you to come to me? Look at this painting. It says:

Mild Music on Tranquil Yellow Days

Love in a Snowy Evening
Expecting the First Sunbeam
Of a Ray Day.

"If you hang it in your home in the winter you will look at it and have warm thoughts of Dalat and of me."

Known locally as "The Crazy Monk," Vien Thuc was predictably eccentric. He led me exuberantly from painting to painting, then stopped abruptly to gaze through the window at the setting sun.

"I must go now," he said with urgency. "I must be at a monks' ceremony soon. You cannot come," he added. "You are not a monk."

I stood there, visibly disappointed.

"Come back tomorrow at

noon," he said. "Then we can talk."

I was only too happy to have a reason to spend yet another day in Dalat, the most splendid of Vietnamese cities, in the heart of the central highlands.

THE FOLLOWING day, the pagoda shone brilliantly under the midday sun, and the large front gateway, which Vien Thuc designed and constructed, shone too, in all its Zen glory. A restless Thuc met me at the side gate.

"Hey-lo! Hey-lo my friend! I am so pleased you have returned! Many people have come to see my paintings today. They love them! And you have a wonderful camera. Very nice!"

The "Divine Calmness Bamboo Garden," as Thuc had named his odd hermitage, was anything but calm when I arrived.

Two women from England were puzzling over which paintings to take home, while an American tourist was pleading for a crash course in Buddhism: "I have to leave Dalat tomorrow morning, but I've been to Nepal and got really hooked on that Zen stuff. Could we sit down and talk for a while?"

Clearly amused by the pilgrimage atmosphere he had created around him, Thuc appreciated the business potential that followed. "Many Europeans love my paintings! I have heard that in Europe paintings cost more than \$300. Mine are \$60!" His expression was a theatrical mixture of joy and disbelief.

When the visitors left, Thuc invited me into his Japanese garden - nothing seemed out of place in this crazy maze of courtyards, work corners and altars - and at last revealed a little about the person underneath the brown tunic and wool hat.

Though communication is not one of his weaknesses - he is fluent in English, French, Thai,



Vietnamese Zen monk Vien Thuc's self-portrait (above) is one of hundreds of paintings in his studio. He tells a visitor: 'Painting is my constant friend.' (Daniel Ziv)

Khmer and Vietnamese - Thuc suddenly seemed shy and often spoke of himself in the third person.

"I was born in the town of My Tho, but left with my mother at the age of 10, to live with monks. I used to paint with my fingers, on the walls and on my clothes. My mother didn't like that, but the monks liked me. They liked to look at my paintings." He looked away from me, toward a drawing.

"Painting is my constant friend. But [a] Zen monk's life is very simple. The monk is up early to meditate - sometimes one or two in the morning - and often I'm asleep by seven in the evening. When he has ideas in his head, sometimes the crazy monk doesn't sleep for five days. Look - Zen ideas."

He handed me piles of drawing pads, endless pages of passages crayoned in bright rainbow colors. "Zen is my universe and the pagoda is my own little kingdom

and my humble home," he said.

HIS Lam Ty Ni pagoda was built in 1961, and Vien Thuc took up residence there in 1968 with two other monks who left in 1975, at the end of the Vietnam War. For nearly 20 years he has lived alone in his self-created world. "There is a special purity, a special balance in my Zen art and in my life, too. I am very much at peace."

Thuc's peace was contradicted only by his own charming restlessness, and he excused himself to go and complete some unfinished watercolors.

Once again the sun began to disappear and it was time to leave. With a calmness that seemed addictive, Thuc escorted me to the gate of woven twigs and branches, and Zen thoughts filled my head.

Mysterious Pagoda with a Different Voice
Etched in a Mountain of Solitude
A Wanderer Touched by



Poems and Art
Walking Warmly out into Twilight's Chill
The Zen Monk Shuts a Bamboo Gate

As I passed through the front garden toward the dirt path, I could hear Vien Thuc's soft singing and then his childlike laughter. Carried by Dalat's mild evening breeze, they seemed to follow me into the sunset.

It's eternal spring in the city of Dalat

SITUATED 1,400 meters above sea level among lush green forests, waterfalls and lakes, Dalat is known as the City of Eternal Spring, because of a comfortable 24°C average daily temperature and year-round sunshine.

Once the exclusive domain of 16 ethnic tribes, Dalat was "discovered" and established as a hill station nearly a century ago by Frenchman Alexander Yersin, and became a popular retreat for Saigon's European residents who built villas, tennis courts, schools and churches on the forested hillsides.

In 1933, Vietnam's Emperor Bao Dai built a summer palace here and the French governor-general established his 25-room pied-à-terre just outside the town center.

In the 1950s, the town became famous among the gentry for its big-game hunting and was Vietnam's favorite hill station. Once called "Le petit Paris," Dalat is full of echoes of its aristocratic colonial past.

STROLLING THROUGH town, I am in what seems like another time and place. The morning aroma of freshly brewed coffee filters through the narrow streets and escorts me to the central market.

This is the heart of Dalat, where local delights come to life in the brightest of colors: fresh flowers, coffee and tea from the plantations nearby; crisp snow peas, carrots and cherry tomatoes; dried strawberries, mulberries and persimmons; seafood and spring rolls.

Tiny baguette stands decorate every corner, their vendors serving up quick meals of pâté and Camembert cheese on French bread for shoppers on the run.

Dalat is indeed the "breadbasket of Vietnam."

The town's French quarter is another bustling assault on the senses. Motorbikes, pony carts and Peugeot taxis swirl around the 3/4 Cinema from dawn to dusk. Smoky sidewalk cafes are centers for local gossip as well as some awfully good cheesecakes. I stop in at Cafe Tung, a small establishment that serves only coffee, tea, hot chocolate and lemon soda.

It was a popular hangout for Saigonese intellectuals in the '50s, and even today old men with berets and pipes sit around quietly while quaint French music is played in the background.

THIS IS the kind of city I thought no longer existed: a city of bakers and cobblers, farmers' and monks, artists and poets.

Dalat is also a center for domestic tourism and a popular honeymoon destination. Down by Xuan Huong Lake, couples walk hand in hand whispering sweet nothings, and wishing for nothing more sweet.

Dalat is a private island of promiscuous intimacy in the sea of conservative Vietnamese society. All of these delights are surprisingly affordable. Most hotels charge \$20 for a comfortable double room, while a luxurious suite at the renovated French governor-general's residence can be had for \$50 a night.

At Thanh Thanh, the town's fanciest restaurant, I have fish bisque, oysters stuffed with seasoned meat and mint leaves, baked chicken in liver pâté and a glass of white wine.

The bill comes to just under \$7. Out on the street, one can enjoy a hearty meal for less than a dollar.

D.Z.

A chance to fill Shohat's shoes - and empty Badash's sandals

GRAPEVINE

GREER FAY CASHMAN

THE price of peace, or, to be more accurate, an invitation to a peace-treaty ceremony, is NIS 73,000. That was the sum paid for Finance Minister Avraham Shohat's personal invitation to the signing ceremony of the Israel-Jordan peace accord. Persuaded by his wife, Tama, president of the Friends of Soroka Medical Center, to donate the invitation to her favorite cause, Shohat was one of 850 people who last week crowded into Beersheba's Epstein Halls for FSMC's annual gala benefit. Put up for auction, the invitation was initially purchased for NIS 60,000 by Caroline and Arnie Simon. Returned to the block for additional fund-raising, the invitation fetched a further NIS 13,000 the second time around. Friends of the Simons, Narit and Michael Hadad, bought it as a gift for Caroline Simon, who chaired the event.

Bids for the renowned sandals of Omer council chairman and Tsomet MK Pini Badash were not as high, but the footwear nonetheless proved to be among the most expensive in Israel. Emcee Meir Pe'er auctioned the sandals by removing them from Badash's feet.

Omer resident Yitzhak Turjeiman paid NIS 5,000 for them, but allowed Badash to wear them home. Cincinnati-based businessman Gary Hyman, who is the FSMC lay leader in the US and owner of Arad Towels, contributed \$25,000. Funds raised exceeded NIS 800,000.

THE LOCATION, adjacent to the Beit Levinstein hospital and rehabilitation center, near Ra'anana, could not have been more appropriate. A street honoring the memory of Shasha Holtzberg, who devoted his life to wounded soldiers, will be officially named this Sunday in the presence of senior IDF officers, Health Minister Ephraim Sneh, and Ra'anana Mayor Ze'ev Bleiskind. Holtzberg died in February.

PISTOL-PACKING uniformed policemen are generally not on the guest list for Herzog Hospital (Ezrat Nashim) benefit brunches. In fact, with the exception of Max Springson, whose wife Bessie invariably contributes to the catering, men are rarely present. But when Gertrude Harvey Cohen hosted one such event this week, she invited Dan Nadel, an articulate representative of the capital's 250-member volunteer police force. Nadel, who made aliyah 19 years ago from New Jersey, is 74 but looks 15



Jack (Amos Kollek) gets a 'verbal quickie' in 'Bad Girls,' Kollek's movie about hookers in New York's Hell's Kitchen.

years younger. He said he plans to stay with the unit till he's 80.

ACADEMIA IS not necessarily the province of leftists, according to Prof. Ariel Cohen, chairman of the right-wing 600-member Association of Professors for Political and Economic Strength in Israel. This may explain why neither Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin nor Foreign Minister Shimon Peres were included in the list of dignitaries who addressed the association's two-day convention at Jerusalem's Moriah Hotel. To balance the scale, neither Rabin nor Peres were among the speakers at the International Conference of Women in Black and Women's Peace Movements which took place at the Paradise Hotel across town.

RELUCTANT TO spend Christmas in Los Angeles, Harry Medved, the Screen Actors Guild National Director of Communications and co-author of *The Fifty Worst Films of All Time*, *The Golden Turkey Awards* and *The Hollywood Hall of Shame*, paid a one-week visit to spend time with members of his family who have made aliyah, and to meet with

heads of the Israeli Collecting Society for Performing Artists and the Israel Union of Performers. Medved also checked out opportunities for developing interactive multi-media titles for CD-ROMs and PCs. Two of the three books he co-authored were written with his brother, celebrated film critic Michael Medved. Their father, Prof. David Medved, an expert in optical communications, lives in Jerusalem.

NOT TO be confused with another film of the same name, Amos Kollek's production of *Bad Girls*, which premiered a couple of months ago at the Haifa Film Festival, is scheduled for screening at the Jerusalem Cinematheque on January 5, 11, and 16 at 9:30 p.m. Based on conversations Kollek had with hookers in New York's Hell's Kitchen, the movie features legitimate actors as well as practitioners of the oldest profession. Why did he make a movie on this subject? "I'm very interested in why they do it," said Kollek. And were the hookers ready to take time out during working hours to talk to him? There was no problem there, according to Kollek. They



Former Tel Aviv mayor Shlomo Lahat gives fund-raising pointers to his daughter-in-law, Ofra Strauss-Lahat. (Israel Sam)

were paid at rates similar to their earnings for turning tricks. Those who talked for shorter periods received less. It was what Kollek termed "a verbal quickie."

DEALING WITH another serious social issue, Ron Yaar, born in England, raised here and a graduate of the Vancouver Film School, is back in Israel where he is producing and directing a short documentary on new ways of treating heroin addiction.

TIPS FROM a pro: former Tel Aviv mayor Shlomo Lahat, who has plenty to show for his fund-raising efforts, is giving pointers to his daughter-in-law Ofra Strauss-Lahat, chairwoman of WIZO's 1995 fund-raising campaign. Attending a festive WIZO gathering, Lahat advised her to stay in the post for at least three years - "even if this causes some problems in the family" - so that her work can be properly evaluated. Lahat told WIZO volunteers to never take no for an answer.

BITTERSWEET REVENGE. Ingo Herbert, press officer at the German Embassy, has been sending out beautifully illustrated 1995 calendars under the title *Great Germans and their Cities*. Among the 52 great Germans are

priest to baptize the boy. But when she told the priest about the child's identity and his mother's last wish, the priest refused to perform the ceremony, and said the child must be restored to his own people. The young priest who made that decision in 1946 was Karol Wojtyla.

MOST SENIOR officials in the capital can lay claim to working or cooperating with mayors Teddy Kollek and Ehud Olmert, but few can also boast of having been shakers and movers during the tenure of Kollek's predecessor Mordechai Ish Shalom. One of the exceptions is Jerusalem International Book Fair director Zev Birger, currently preparing for the 17th such event, which - in view of ever-expanding diplomatic relations - promises to be the largest to date. When the first biennial fair was launched in 1963, Birger, as deputy director-general of customs and excise, was approached by Ish Shalom to waive import taxes on books that were temporarily brought into the country for display at the fair. Birger subsequently sat on the fair's executive board, and in 1982 Kollek appointed him director. The fair opens on March 12.

A PICTURE is reportedly worth a thousand words. This certainly proved to be the case when the photograph of Jerusalem Post reporter BatSheva Tsar with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was published in last Friday's edition. Hod Hasharon librarian Leah Simon, who studied with Tsar in the '60s when Tsar was still known as BatSheva Herman, recognized her old friend and promptly tracked her down.

AUSTRALIAN Supreme Court Justice Marcus Einfeld, during a brief visit this week, was reunited with his former teacher Rabbi Elhanan Blumenthal after a 51-year hiatus. Blumenthal was one of the founders of Sydney's Moriah College, where Einfeld was one of the first kindergarten pupils.

Einfeld sought out Blumenthal after seeing a newspaper reprint of an old photograph in which both of them appeared. Einfeld is the founder of International Legal Resources, a nongovernment project which supplies books, furniture and the services of retired judges and lawyers to developing countries. His main purpose in coming here was to provide ILR benefits to the Palestinians - on condition that the Palestinian Authority abides by the rule of law.

Einfeld also met President Ezer Weizman, Justice Minister David Liba'i, local colleagues on the bench and several prominent lawyers. Deeply committed to Jewish issues, Einfeld is the only judge in Australia with a mezuza in his office.

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הכרזת האמל

BUSINESS & FINANCE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1994

Dollar tries to recover losses

LONDON (Reuters) - The dollar fought hard to regain its recent sharp losses on the foreign exchange market but was still vulnerable to nervousness about Mexican markets.

Traders, however, said the thinness of the market was exaggerating the dollar's troubles. "We'll have to wait for next week for some semblance of normality. I think eventually we'll settle down and start to claw back these losses," said a trader at a US bank in London.

On Wednesday, New York sold the dollar heavily on speculation, later denied by the US Treasury, that Mexico was drawing on a US swap line to support the peso.

The United States has extended a \$6 billion line of credit to Mexico but the US Treasury said it had not been drawn on. It did confirm discussions were underway on external support for Mexico to help stabilize its economy.

The prospect of Mexico flooding the market with dollars to buy pesos had seriously undermined the US currency. The dollar tum-

bled more than three pennings on Wednesday after European markets had shut, to almost 1.54 marks, before staging a sharp recovery back above 1.56 marks.

Yesterday, many in Europe were content to let New York decide the dollar's fate. By 1730 GMT the dollar was quoted at 1.5490 marks and 99.65 yen as US markets sold it off again.

In Europe, political problems for the Italian lira and more recently the Spanish peseta grabbed attention.

The lira has been plagued by Italian politicians' inability to form a government quickly after the resignation of Silvio Berlusconi as prime minister last week. The lira weakened to a new record low around 1050 per mark.

The peseta fell to a historical low of 85.28 per mark amid market worries about the potential political fallout from investigations into undercover police operations against Basque separatists.

Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez told a news conference in Madrid he would not hold an early general election.

Controls on checking account fees dropped

PRICE controls on checking account management fees will be eliminated next week, the Bank of Israel announced yesterday.

Supervisor of Banks Ze'ev Abeles, together with the central bank's price committee, the Industry and Trade Ministry supervisor of prices, and Treasury representatives, decided on the move as part of an overall campaign to gradually eliminate most price controls and allow competi-

tion among commercial banks. As part of this policy, the Bank of Israel has already simplified the procedures for customers to switch banks and the banks' fee table to ease comparison shopping.

The central bank noted that under the price control, the checking account management fee consolidated several different activities under one fee. With the

cancellation of the control, banks will be able to charge for each activity separately.

The Bank of Israel encouraged consumers to pay close attention to all the elements that make up the fees.

Abeles noted the price control has been eliminated for a test period of a year. Should the central bank's price committee find it necessary during that time to re-instate the control, it can do so.

sharply as the overvalued shekel bites into export profitability.

Fogel defends the government's record on privatization, although less convincingly. He says that while transferring state assets into private hands as a structural economic goal is the main purpose of privatization, selling them at a discount is unacceptable, and he would prefer to distribute free options to all citizens.

While recognizing the political limitations under which it works, Fogel's main criticism of the government is its spending level. Referring to the current crisis, he firmly advocates any new spending proposal be accompanied by an explanation of what existing expenditure will be cut to finance it.

The economy still has many specific and structural problems. But if David Brodet, Fogel's successor, is anywhere near as energetic and industrious as his predecessor, the economy should continue to progress.

Fogel: Reformer who'll be missed

COMMENT

NEIL COHEN

"THE political leadership is all but exhausted by the amount of economic change," outgoing Finance Ministry Director-General Aharon Fogel said yesterday, the implication being that it could not cope with much more at this point.

Fogel's tenure has indeed been one of the most frenetic in terms of economic reform and new legislation, and it seems a shame that he is not staying to see through some of the reforms he has started. Fogel has enjoyed a close and supportive relationship with his minister, who in turn was usually backed by the prime minister, despite his attack on the "Fogels" (technocrats insensitive to political realities).

Above all, Fogel will be remembered for pushing through the capital gains tax, which was his baby. Without doubt, he deserves much credit for pushing through the open skies reform, the bank reform (forcing the banks to sell their non-financial

assets), the land marketing reforms, and blocking public-sector building. Fogel was also heavily involved in separating Kupat Holim Clalit from the Histadrut.

Fogel is honest enough to admit his failures. He sees no real solution in sight to the crisis in the military industries; he warns that the situation of the Histadrut pension funds is becoming increasingly acute. He feels that the kibbutz crisis is on the way to resolution, but attacks what he considers the excessive demands of the kibbutzim. His greatest disappointment, he says, is the surge in inflation.

Fogel feels that a "package deal" bringing down labor costs and interest rates, together with a cut in government spending, is vital if the economy is not to slow

down. The economy still has many specific and structural problems. But if David Brodet, Fogel's successor, is anywhere near as energetic and industrious as his predecessor, the economy should continue to progress.

New IEC headquarters approved

THE Israel Electric Corporation's property committee yesterday gave the green light for a \$120 million headquarters building in one of Haifa's southern suburbs.

The 18-story building will include 56,000 sq.m. of space, in addition to underground parking. The committee also approved

the board's plan to invest \$15.5m. in expansion and renovation of its office building in Tel Aviv.

Meanwhile, US investment bankers Lehman Brothers and Merrill Lynch were appointed underwriters for the firm's planned bond issue. The company plans to raise about \$200m. on the New York Stock Exchange.

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No mutual funds show positive yields this year

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

NOT a single mutual fund achieved a positive real yield this year, reflecting the drop in all kinds of traded securities, according to the investment firm Meitav.

Meitav reported that not even one of the 256 funds which invested in the capital market this year achieved a nominal yield of more than 14.6 percent, the forecasted rise in the Consumer Price Index.

Only 49 funds achieved a positive nominal yield. Seven funds achieved a nominal yield of 10-14%, and 16 funds achieved a positive nominal yield of between 5%-10%. An additional 26 funds were in the 0%-5% region.

On the negative side, 32 funds achieved a negative nominal yield of 0%-10%, another 32 funds were in the 10%-20% range and 47 funds in the 20%-30% range. Eighty-five funds achieved negative yields of more than 30%.

The 10 best performing funds specialize in investment in government bonds. Leading the gainers were Dotan, managed by General Bank, with a nominal positive yield of 14%. The second best per-

former was Hila Pekan, with a yield of 13.9%, followed by Lahak Snunit, with a yield of 12.3%.

The worst performing fund was Meitav warrants, which had a negative nominal yield of 69.3%. The second worst performing fund was Emda Mixed, an aggressive flexible fund, with a negative nominal yield of 62.9%, followed by Ram 90, a share fund, with a negative yield of 60.6%.

Meitav emphasized funds specializing in investment in warrants were the poorest performers. These funds suffered from the 82.6% drop in the warrant index.

Meitav said government bond funds were the best performing funds, with an average positive nominal yield of 5%. Foreign currency bonds achieved an average negative nominal yield of 6.3%, while the conservative bond specializing funds achieved a negative nominal yield of 6.8%.

The flexible funds achieved an average negative nominal yield of 27.9% and stock funds suffered an average negative nominal yield of 39.2%.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Mizrahi closes Brooklyn branch: United Mizrahi Bank closed its Brooklyn branch this week in an effort to reduce its New York subsidiary's losses. The branch business was transferred to UMB Bank and Trust Company of New York.

Ahjae Mazal will conduct production tests for natural gas at the Esther 7 drill site. The company announced yesterday that initial electrical loggings at a depth of 224.5 meters justify further investigation.

Leumi raising interest on savings: Bank Leumi has announced it is raising interest on saving plans. The five-year index-linked plan will now pay 3.6% and the 10-year plan 3.7%. The bank previously offered 3% on these plans.

Luboshitz, Kasirer, and Company is negotiating to become the local representative of Arthur Andersen, a leading accounting firm with an annual income of some \$6.7 billion. An announcement on agreement is expected early next year. Luboshitz, Kasirer, and Co., one of Israel's largest accounting firms, counts Delek, Bezek, Clal Industries and ICL among its clients.

WORLD BRIEFS

Airbus Industrie, Europe's only large aircraft maker, said yesterday it had sealed a US deal for 30 firm orders and 10 options for new passenger jets.

The International Lease Finance Corp (ILFC) order, estimated by industry sources to be worth at least \$1.5 billion, calls for deliveries to start in February 1996 and continue to 2000. This brings Airbus' total orders this year to 110, putting it almost neck-and-neck with US arch-rival Boeing Co. *Reuters*

Dutch planemaker Fokker needs an injection of several hundred million more guilders to survive, analysts said yesterday after the emergence of a secret report outlining crisis plans to secure its future.

Fokker shares fell 14 percent to a low of 10.20 guilders after Dutch television on Wednesday evening quoted an internal report which concluded it must close a production plant to survive - heaping more woes on the troubled stock. *Reuters*

France's Bull okays capital increase: French computer company Cie des Machines Bull said yesterday that an extraordinary general meeting had approved a capital increase that will boost the French state's stake prior to a partial privatization. The state will be the only shareholder to subscribe to a \$471m. capital increase with immediate effect. *Reuters*

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (30.12.94)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	5.750	6.250	6.875
U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	4.875	5.500	6.125
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.375	4.800	5.475
Swiss franc (SF 250,000)	4.125	4.575	5.170
Yen (10 million yen)	0.750	0.875	1.000

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (29.12.94)	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS	BANKNOTES	Rep. Rate
U.S. dollar	3.370	3.380	3.350
German mark	0.0023	0.0023	0.0023
French franc	1.9258	1.927	1.925
British pound	4.841	4.728	4.78
Japanese yen (100)	0.0035	0.0035	0.0035
Italian lira (100)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Dutch guilder	1.7202	1.7444	1.77
Swedish krona	2.2702	2.3025	2.34
Swiss franc	0.4227	0.4284	0.43
Spanish peseta	0.0409	0.0472	0.048
Portuguese escudo	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010
Belgian franc	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Canadian dollar	2.1351	2.1652	2.19
Australian dollar	2.2340	2.2659	2.29
S. African rand	0.0462	0.0572	0.06
South Korean won (10)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Australian dollar (10)	2.2370	2.2758	2.30
Indian rupee (1000)	1.8588	1.8647	1.87
Jordanian dinar	—	—	—
Egyptian pound	—	—	—
ECU	3.875	3.7082	3.80
Irish punt	4.875	4.8830	4.89
Spanish peseta (100)	2.8871	2.8980	2.91

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Pioneer International Ltd

South African Economic Statistics

Exchange rates:	Commercial rand / \$	Prices 28.12.94	Prices 21.12.94	% Change
(buy)	3.566	3.554	3.554	-0.33%
(sell)	4.095	4.007	4.007	-2.20%
Interest rates:	Commercial rand / \$	5.501	5.544	0.77%
(buy)	Commercial rand / \$	12.50%	12.45%	0.40%
(sell)	Money market (BAs)	15.93%	15.78%	0.93%
ESCOM 2008	ESCOM 2008	16.63%	16.63%	0.00%
ESCOM 2020	ESCOM 2020	15.59%	15.59%	-0.06%
RSA 150	RSA 150	14.62%	14.62%	0.00%
UAL Max Income	OM Investors	43.7333	43.4333	0.70%
OM Investors	Guardbank	69.88105	69.72003	0.23%
Guardbank	UAL Gilt	37.3261	36.5752	2.05%
UAL Gilt	UAL Gilt	11.6673	11.6168	-0.43%
UAL Max Income	UAL Max Income	10.1409	10.1743	-0.33%
De Beers	De Beers	93.50	93.00	0.54%
Val Reef	Val Reef	357.00	346.00	3.18%
Anglo American	Anglo American	235.50	235.00	0.21%
Barlows	Barlows	35.50	36.00	-1.39%
SA Brews	SA Brews	92.50	97.00	-5.22%
Sasol	Sasol	33.00	32.75	0.76%
Tiger Oats	Tiger Oats	49.75	50.50	-1.49%
Isacor	Isacor	4.65	4.60	1.09%
JSE Actuaries Overall	JSE Actuaries Overall	5.810	5.747	1.09%

*RY - running yield.
COMMENTS: It was widely felt that the Rand would continue depreciating, and that the Reserve Bank would continue to support the currency against a major slide. The Bank's motive in intervention was to ensure that when the FIN Rand was scrapped, the new single currency would get off to a good start, and the abolition of the FIN Rand could be announced in the March budget.
Analysts predicted that the new exchange rate could be between R365/\$ and R385/\$.
Economists are advocating that privatization start as soon as possible, to preempt drastic measures like higher taxation which may be needed to bolster government revenues, and feel that we are already in a fiscal crisis.

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Investment is the key word for next year

It may not get into high gear for a few months, but 1995 promises to come up roses for investors, according to expert predictions, Galit Lipkis Beck writes

THE coming year will be a better one for investors. Investment selectivity should be the key word, since there are many uncertainties which may dramatically change sectors and company performances, most capital-market experts predict.

Analysts forecast the capital market will recover towards the end of the first half of 1995. The specialists expect 1995 to be a very interesting year, during which investors will rediscover the Karam market of small and medium-sized companies.

The following is a list of experts' forecasts on where investments are heading in 1995. (Many other specialists did not want to be quoted because of the difficult stock market situation and the redefinition of investment and consultancy laws.)

David Weisberg, managing director of IBI Brokerage House: Aware of the many problems ahead, Weisberg has a pessimistic forecast for the first few months, but by the end of the year, he predicts stock prices will go up 20 percent

in real terms.

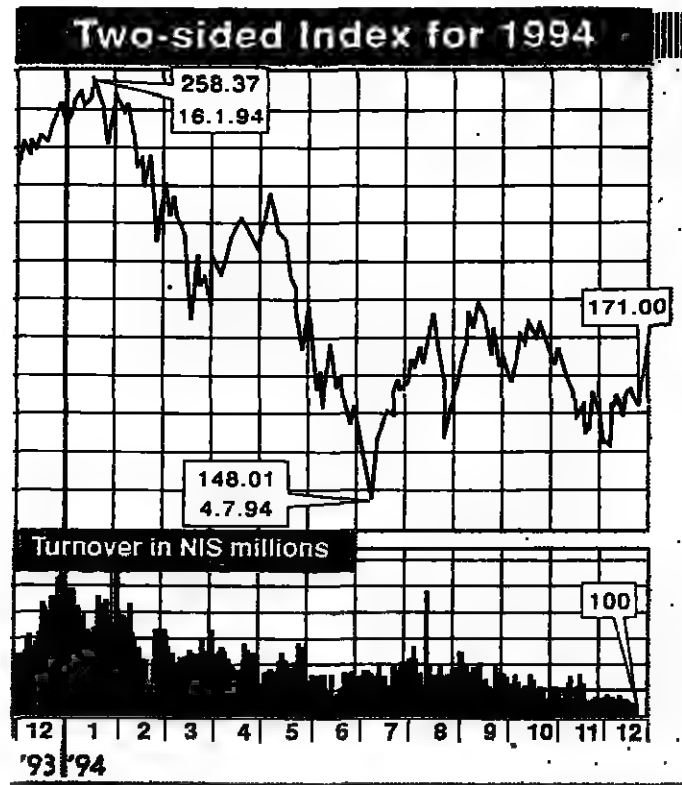
"There is no doubt the market was over-sold in 1994, pushing the real value of shares traded on the exchange well below their market worth," he said. "But markets always correct themselves. The market will go up once it is more certain about economic policy and the capital market."

Weisberg said stocks traded on the Karam registered a drastic drop in 1994 mainly because of the way they are traded. He predicted these shares will bounce back up.

"Beware of companies with a large leverage because of the current high interest rate. The rate will be very meaningful in assessing potential investments during the next three to six months. A company with a high leverage may have cash-flow problems in the short run."

Weisberg predicted the chemical sector will continue to thrive in 1995, reflecting a rise in raw-material prices worldwide, a trend which started last year.

The food industry, including manufacturers and distributors,



will continue to grow thanks to an expanding population and refinement of consumer tastes. In addition, Weisberg said food companies will take advantage of new markets in the Middle East and Far East.

Weisberg predicted the improvement in Israel's political status will increase tourism 10 to 15 percent next year. He expects further expansion of the hotel and car-rental sectors.

The high-technology sector will also grow, reflecting a world-

wide competitive advantage for telecommunications and computer software companies.

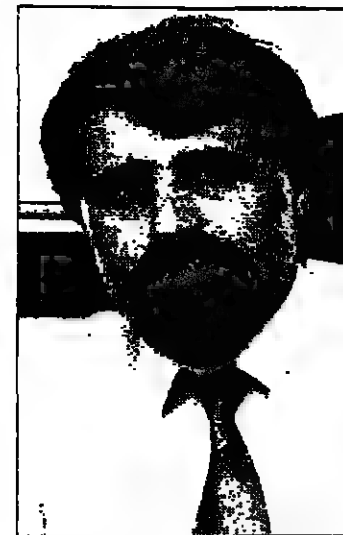
"Companies like Tadiran, Teledata and ECI face a very competitive market but demand for their products is strong and the companies are continuously engaged in product innovation. These companies can take advantage of many opportunities if they are in the right place at the right time."

Uri Shacham, manager of brokers Haron & Lavi: Shacham, optimistic about the stock market, said the market will see a growth already in January. He forecasted the Two-Sided Index will rise to 220 by mid-year (the index currently stands at about 172), and 260 by year end.

"Sales of shares will cease in January; whoever wants to sell will sell by then. Current prices are economically attractive and persons investing for several months, or more, will reap high yields."

Shacham predicted the insurance sector will rise. "Hadar and Phoenix are currently traded at attractive levels. Their prices halved in 1994 despite a growth in earnings for the first nine months of the year."

Zvi Stepak, managing director of the Meitav Investment House:



Eli Avraham: Mishtanim will increase about 10% in real terms. (Israel Sun)

"Treasury bills are an attractive investment in 1995. They give a yield of 17%. Investors will be able to make a real profit of 5%, assuming inflation and interest rates drop. Some companies' convertible bonds are also considered a good investment opportunity."

Stepak predicted the Mishtanim index will rise above 200. He said there are many Karam shares with a high profit potential.

The strong chemical sector – especially petrochemicals – will continue to rise, he said, adding that mortgage-bank shares are traded at attractive prices.

"Real-estate shares are attractive, some of them traded one third below their net asset value. My advice is to invest in real-estate companies on condition that they are not heavily leveraged."

The computer sector, he said, will suffer from a rise in labor costs. Other shares investors should be wary of including companies which registered their shares for trading in mid-1993, when prices were high.

"These companies registered their shares based on doubtful information. They artificially improved balance sheets."

Eli Avraham, general manager of Bank Leumi's provident fund division and former manager of Leumi Pli, the mutual fund company:

"Assuming economic policy will lead to a fall in interest rates and devaluation of the foreign currency rate, this will lead to

a rise in investments and increased interest in the capital market."

Avraham said the share market is an attractive investment route for the medium and long term. He forecasted the Mishtanim will increase about 10% in real terms.

David Moritz, a partner in Moritz & Tuchler brokerage firm:

"We plan to increase our investments in the share market this year. There is no point investing in the share market in the short run. Investment in the stock market is legitimate on condition that it is done on a selective basis. 'Bourse' is not a rude word when long-term investments are considered. Stocks are necessary to diversify investment portfolios."

David Wasserman, manager of First International Bank's provident fund division:

Wasserman, who was appointed head of FIB's marketing divi-

sion this week, is optimistic about the capital market.

"I expect interest rates and the inflation rate to fall in 1995. The share market will start to recover in March/April. I expect medium and long-term bond yields to fall based on the assumption that the inflation rate will drop to 10-11%."

Wasserman forecast food and tourism sector shares to increase in price.

"A company like Koor is considered a good investment. The company is invested in many industrial sectors."

Moshe Sagi, manager of Bank Discount's provident fund division:

"This will be a better year than 1994. If interest rates fall as a result of Bank of Israel's policy measures, this will contribute to growth. Provident funds, especially funds with long-term bonds, will improve their yields."

TASE's best and worst in '94

THERE was very little cheer anywhere in the TASE, unless your name was Feuchtwanger, or you shorted Maof options. As of the close of trading on Monday, the Maof index of the biggest, "safest" stocks had fallen 29.48% from its December 31st close. The Mishtanim (two-sided) index of the next biggest stocks slid 30.57%. The Karam index of smaller stocks dived 51.83%. The index of Israeli stocks traded on Wall Street was down 40%.

THE BEST.....

	TEL AVIV STOCKS	
Feuchtwanger 5	+109.5%	Adacom
Feuchtwanger 1	+95.4%	Giltek
Koor Warrant 2	+94.0%	Williger
Petrochemicals	+46.8%	Ratio
AI Paper Mills	+15.7%	Magen5

AND THE WORST

	NEW YORK STOCKS	
Lannet	+74%	Sapiens
AI Paper Mills	+11%	IIS
Aladdin	+5%	Eduistics
Gilat	+4%	Eshed

	ALL MUTUAL FUNDS	
Hila PKN (govt bonds)+14.06%	Meitav warrants	-66.93%
Lahak Sounit (govt bonds)	Emda Meshulevet	-61.02%
Ya'ara PKN (govt bonds)	Ra'am 90	-58.08%
Mivhar (bonds)	Ramco Flexible	-57.30%
Hetz PKN (bonds)	Lahak Agamia	-55.49%

	SECTORS	
Commercial Banks	-15.80%	General Warrants
Convertible Bonds	-21.41%	Oil Exploration
Mortgage Banks	-33.52%	Real Estate/Agri
Industrial Companies	-36.58%	Insurance

TASE among worst performers worldwide

IN 1994 the best place for the Israeli investor's money was in the bank. The TASE and all its component indexes were rotten performers. Although the world as a whole was an altogether less friendly place to invest following the buoyant stock markets of 1993, Israel was still one of the worst, with only Turkey, Poland and China performing worse. Here is the league table: (all figures in dollar terms, up to December 24)

THE BEST

1: Brazil	+77.7%
2: Chile	+45.2%
3: Japan	+34.2%
4: Portugal	+27.7%
5: S. Africa	+21.4%
6: S. Korea	+21.1%
7: Taiwan	+15.9%
8: Sweden	+15.4%
9: India	+15.3%
10: Holland	+8.2%

THE BIGGEST

1: MSCI World Index	+1.8%
2: Germany	+1.1%
3: US	+1.0%
4: Britain	-6.4%
5: France	-8.4%

THE WORST

1: Turkey	-48.2%
2: Poland	-46.7%
3: China	-45.5%
4: Israel	-33.8%
5: Hong Kong	-31.3%
6: Czech	-27.7%
7: Indonesia	-25.0%
8: Mexico	-22.9%
9: Venezuela	-21.4%
10: Malaysia	-21.2%

Overall economic outlook is positive

ECONOMISTS standing at the threshold of 1995 paint a rosy picture for next year, although with clear shades of gray.

None of them expect inflation to increase and most of them predict consumer prices will moderate. By contrast, they foresee slower economic growth and a sharper devaluation of the shekel against the currency basket. Interest rates will eventually crawl down, according to most economists, but only slightly, because Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel will be very careful not to repeat last year's mistake of letting the economy heat up too fast.

JOSE ROSENFELD

Although some economists don't foresee any major crisis next year, many are worried about the burgeoning trade deficit, which could lead to a real crisis in a couple of years. Another area of concern is agriculture, which has recently suffered several shocks from the rapid population growth and from the opening of the local market to produce from the autonomous areas. Pre-election profligacy is also worrying economists.

The Jerusalem Post canvassed predictions for 1995 from eight economists in the private and public sectors and in academia.

Only the Bank of Israel's chief economist, Liora Meridor, refused to participate in the survey.

Participants included: Bank Hapoalim's chief economist Patricia Bar-Shavit, the Treasury Economic Adviser Tsipi Gal-Yam, Manufacturers' Association chief economist Hezi Gutman, Tel Aviv University economics professor and Bank of Israel advisor Leonardo Leiderman, the Histadrut's Institute for Economic and Social Research director Roby Natanson, Tel Aviv University economics professor Assaf Razin, former Treasury director general Ezra Sadan, and Economic Models director Eli Sagi.

Experts say inflation won't increase

	Inflation	Real GDP	Shekel vs. currency basket	Interest Rates
Bar-Shavit	12%	4.7%	-8-9%	slowly lower
Gal-Yam	8-11%	5%	-6-7%	no comment
Gutman	13-14%	3.5%-4%	-9-10%	similar to '94
Leiderman	+/-10%	4%-5%	within "crawling peg"	slowly lower
Natanson	12%	5%	-8-10%	slowly lower
Razin	over 10%	4% or less	stronger drop than '94	slight drop
Sadan	10-15%	4%	1-2% less than inflation	higher rates
Sagi	10-15%	3.5%	-8%	slowly lower

Big surprise in 1995:

Bar-Shavit:	a GDP of 6% or higher should housing prices drop and the government increase infrastructure investments.
Gal-Yam:	lower inflation than expected.
Gutman:	stable private sector wages.
Leiderman:	strong dollar and positive developments in the peace process.
Razin:	stock market will recover.
Sadan:	larger-than-usual immigration of returning Israelis.
Sagi:	higher unemployment.

Crisis of the year:

Bar-Shavit:	none.
Gal-Yam:	none.
Gutman:	maybe the \$8.5 billion trade gap.
Leiderman:	policy reversal of smaller government and shrinking deficits.
Natanson:	agriculture, since sector has not kept up with population growth.
Razin:	no real crisis, but drop in exports as a result of profit erosion.
Sadan:	none.
Sagi:	none. Real slowdown in retail trade, but not to crisis proportions.

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TAX ON CAPITAL GAINS ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE

OPTIONS ■ RATES ■ EXEMPTIONS

On January 1, 1995, a new law will come into effect - a law requiring the payment of tax on capital gains on the stock exchange. The tax on capital gains on the stock exchange will be carried out in two alternative options according to the choice and preference of the investor. Over the next two years, the investor may freely choose one of the two options.

OPTION 1: TAX ONLY ON THE GAINS

This option will require one to pay a tax-rate of 10% on real gains from the sale of securities less the rise in the consumer index. This is paid as a withholding tax and does not require the filing of a tax report or of losses incurred.

OPTION 2: OFFSET OF LOSSES

The tax rate on this option is 20% on real gains from all securities, including mutual funds, with the offset of losses. The calculation of the tax rate will be performed annually. Based upon the return received from the sale of a security which incurred gains, the bank will deduct 10% from the gross sum. At the end of the year, a special tax report will be submitted to the Income Tax Commission which will offset the gains and losses. If a surplus tax is paid, a tax refund will be made accordingly.

MUTUAL FUNDS

A tax of 15% will be imposed on capital gains from mutual funds. The tax on capital gains from mutual funds is higher than the tax imposed in the first option because the investors benefit from the internal deductions made in the fund.

WHAT SECURITIES FROM TAXATION?

Provident funds and continuing professional educational funds will be exempt from taxation as they constitute long-term investments and savings options.

The revenue from the new tax will allow for the abolition or reduction of other taxes.

A detailed information pamphlet on these changes is available at various banks and Income Tax Commission offices.

For the first months, until the banks are fully prepared, the figures for the calculation of capital gains will be accumulated by the banks and the withholding tax will be implemented at a later stage.

TAX ON CAPITAL GAINS ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE SIMPLE AND FAIR!

Ministry of Finance/Income Tax Commission

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Warne shines with hat-trick in England's down-under thrashing

In 1991, umpires agreed to a contract just hours before the season was scheduled to start. In 1994, they made from \$60,000 to \$175,000, depending on seniority. They also were to receive an additional \$10,000-20,000 each from the postseason bonus pool, a total of \$1.2 million, but the leagues didn't pay the money, arguing they weren't obligated because there was no postseason.

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F. Turner & Heavy & McDermott & Extras (lb-2, nb-3) 5
Total 92
Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-10, 3-23, 4-43, 5-51, 6-88, 7-91, 8-91, 9-91.
Bowling: McDermott 18.5-2-42-5 (nb-3), Fleming 9-1-24-2, Warne 13-6-16-3, May 4-1-8-0.

*The Sports Pages are edited
by Joe Hoffman*

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Transportation: Buses will leave Binyanei Ha'uma at 2:00 p.m.

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CONCLUSION

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● The Middle East page brings you an Arab news digest, articles on and by Israel's neighbors.

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● The Post's "agony aunt" Ruth Blum answers readers' questions.
● Intelligence experts Uri Dan and Dennis Eisenberg give you inside stories of international intrigue.

IBA's English, French programs to be slashed on Sunday

LIAT COLLINS

ISRAELI Radio's English- and French-language broadcasts abroad are scheduled to be drastically cut beginning Sunday as part of a money-saving effort. The cut will be felt during nighttime broadcasts, which will end at 11 p.m. French will lose its 11:30 p.m. broadcast, and English its 12:30 a.m. broadcast.

Earlier this week it was announced that the French department would lose all its evening and nighttime programs, but following complaints by the public and a High Court petition, the French department will be given a 15-minute slot at 10:15 p.m., at the expense of English-language features.

According to IBA spokesman Zvi Lidar, Israel Radio plans to broadcast several news bulletins in English during the night on Radio 2, which is transmitted abroad.

Staff members working for the radio's French and English departments condemned the move. "It's a false economy," said one employee.

Radio staff noted that the cutback in English would mainly affect the broadcasts to North America, which lost its IBA prime-time broadcasts in 1991 as part of budget cuts. The French cutback will leave the large Jewish communities in France, Belgium and Switzerland with only daytime broadcasts, when short-wave reception is poor and most people are at work.

"The neighboring Arab countries continue to broadcast in English and French," a staffer said. "Only Israel is cutting back."

Clalit baby clinics to halt care for non-members

JUDY SIEGEL

STARTING Sunday, members of the three smaller health funds whose babies have received care in family health (*ipat halav*) centers owned by Kupat Holim Clalit will have to go elsewhere.

Clalit announced last night that its 561 well-baby clinics would no longer provide service to babies from other health funds. Parents who must move to another clinic, run by their own insurer, will receive the infant's medical file immediately upon request.

The Maccabi, Meuhedet, and Leumi health funds have established separate well-baby clinics in many areas, and joint ones in small settlements.

Maccabi sources said yesterday it has established its own chain of *ipat halav* centers with "better care than ever." Immunization, weightings, and developmental checkups are not free — parents

will continue to pay the fee set by the Health Ministry.

Maccabi claims that Clalit is "making trouble" in transferring babies' medical files. Maccabi also claims that Clalit has refused to hand over the balance of fees paid by parents for the period after the changeover. It said it would take Clalit to court over the fees issue.

Most well-baby clinics in Jerusalem are run by the municipality, with a handful owned by the health funds. The Health Ministry also runs dozens of clinics around the country. But in most of the country, Clalit has for many years supplied such services on a contractual basis for the other health funds. Clalit claims it has subsidized these services all this time, and is no longer required by the ministry to continue.

Labor faction calls for return of Ram MKs

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

LABOR's Histadrut faction yesterday called on the party leadership to bring the three Ram MKs — Haim Ramon, Amir Peretz, and Shmuel Avital — back into the party, so the two Histadrut factions can merge.

If this is not possible, the faction recommended leaving the coalition and going into opposition.

The faction met to formulate its position before recommending it to Police Minister Moshe Shahal, whom Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin appointed to determine Labor's future in the Histadrut.

Rabin, who met with labor council leaders on Wednesday, told them Ramon could only rejoin Labor if he unites his list with Labor's in the Histadrut.

"I will not have a man with two passports in the party," Rabin said.

Many faction members now regard joining the coalition with Ram as a hasty step which was not thought out properly.

"Three MKs are holding the government [where it hurts], while we are treated like the concubine who can be used and then disposed of. The government doesn't give a damn about us, it is too busy wooing the three maverick MKs," said Histadrut personnel chairman Meir Gatt.

Gideon Ben-Yisrael warned that the Histadrut is about to lose one million members this year, noting that the number of Arab members has dropped from 200,000 to a few thousand.

"What is happening in the Histadrut is reminiscent of a Greek tragedy: Everybody knows what the end will be, but is helpless to do anything about it," he said.

'Deri not linked to \$200,000 payment'

Avraham Hecht, testifying at Shas leader Aryeh Deri's trial in Jerusalem yesterday, said Deri had no connection to the \$200,000 allegedly given to Moshe Weinberg by Hecht's Moshesh Binyamin organization.

Hecht said Deri attended a meeting between himself and Weinberg, but only to "soften up" Weinberg. Hecht said he gave Weinberg the money only after agreement was reached on alternative land for the Nebi Samwil plots.

Hecht testified he never imagined he would pay Weinberg \$200,000 without alternative land being provided, but insisted the payment was not a bribe. (tim)

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Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo accepts a Chinese lacquer plate from one of four Beijing Supreme Court justices who visited the city yesterday. (Yisrael Hadaot)

Cost of health law's services basket still not approved

JUDY SIEGEL

THE National Health Insurance Law takes effect on Sunday, without the cost of the basket of health services being approved by the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee.

Committee chairman Yossi Katz yesterday rejected Health Minister Ephraim Sneh's request for approval of the government ceiling on the cost of the 1995 basket of health services at NIS 14.2 billion. Katz said it is "unthinkable" that the committee act as a "rubber stamp" without hearing all the claims of vested interests and analyzing the elements of the basket.

The committee is to discuss the subject on Monday.

Sneh told the committee the ministry is bound to ensure health services for all residents. "As it gave support for Kupat Holim Clalit, it must also help Maccabi, Meuhedet, and Leumi," because they cover 36 percent of the population. "In order to put them at an equal starting point

with Clalit when the law goes into effect, the treasury must give them NIS 255 million," Sneh said.

He added that he was considering the possibility of allowing private medical services (*sharap*) in the public hospitals if they "will not prevent people who cannot afford such services to get high-level care."

Some of the proceeds will go towards research and development and expansion of the public hospitals' services. At present, *sharap* is permitted only at Jerusalem's voluntary (non-government, non-Kupat Holim Clalit) hospitals.

Representatives of the smaller health funds and the public hospitals reiterated their concern that the new law would produce a serious budget squeeze in their institutions. Shai Talmon, the treasury's budget director, insisted that the basket of services "must be NIS 1 billion smaller than what has been presented today."

State Comptroller may probe Health Ministry pamphlet

JUDY SIEGEL

THE State Comptroller's Office is likely to look into the Health Ministry's publication of a booklet about the national health insurance system that opens with a photo of and greeting by Minister Ephraim Sneh, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.

Past comptroller reports have severely criticized the practice of public agencies using informational material, produced at public expense, to promote the individuals who head them, especially through the use of their photographs.

The Hebrew, Arabic, and Russian booklet, *Everything You Wanted to Know About the National Health Insurance Bill*, was prepared under the direction of ministry spokeswoman Yifat Ben-Hai, in coordination with the National Insurance Institute and the Government Publications Office. Although Ben-Hai did not disclose its cost, outsiders estimated it at around NIS 1 million.

Another new ministry publication, *Brit'us Mehashetah*, about environmental health and food hygiene, also begins with Sneh's picture and a greeting.

The Post learned that the Finance Ministry has a policy of ne-

Pedestrian killed by cement mixer

A 40-year-old woman was fatally injured yesterday in Rishon LeZion when she was hit by a cement mixer as she crossed Rehov Yerushalayim. (tim)

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All you want to know about the National Health Insurance Law...at

Kupat Holim Clalit is operating hot lines, to provide details of how the new Health Insurance Law affects Clalit's institutions and customer services.

Clalit will continue to provide its members with updated information on the implications of the new law, for members and their families.

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